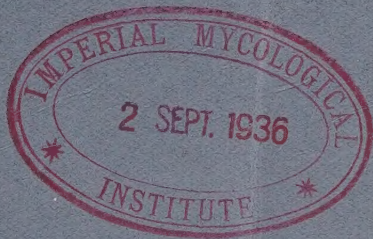


VOLUME XI
No. 4

GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST, 1936



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GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST, 1936.

*Oft have I seen a sudden storm arise
From all the warring winds that sweep the skies.*

*The lofty skies at once come pouring down ;
The promised crop and golden labours drown.
The dykes are filled, and with a roaring sound
The rising rivers float the nether ground.*

From "A storm in harvest."

JOHN DRYDEN.

July will be a memorable month for its rainfall and the fact that, at this time of the year when activity on the farm should be at its height, farmers were rendered almost inactive by the extremely rough weather conditions and what comparatively little outdoor work was undertaken was principally directed, with little success, towards the saving of the hay crop. Ignoring, however, this crop, the countryside seemed to have benefited from the abundance of moisture for practically all the other crops have made rapid growth and are in a promising state despite the fact that partial lodging is fairly common. With the improvement in the weather since the end of July the anxieties regarding the saving of the grain, flax and root crops are slowly but gradually disappearing and the returns in most instances may yet be very satisfactory. Much however depends on the weather between now and harvesting time.

This issue might well be termed a statistical number since its principal items concern the census of crops and livestock taken at the 1st June last. The general returns are published on page 10 and in addition particular references are made to:—

- (1) "The distribution of pigs on holdings in Northern Ireland" on pages 8 and 9.
- (2) "Detailed information regarding the acreage under the principal varieties of potatoes" on page 7.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS AT 1st AUGUST, 1936.

The weather during July was very unsettled and in many respects unseasonal. The rainfall throughout was exceptionally heavy and flooding was occasioned in low-lying districts. Rarely have rivers and streams been so heavily in spate at this time of the year as the result of the almost incessant downpours. The second and third weeks of July were the wettest, and during several heavy thunderstorms in this period some cattle were killed by lightning. Towards the end of the month conditions improved slightly but the weather still remained far from summery. Excepting some brief spells of bright warm sunshine at the beginning and the end of July, temperatures during the month were unusually low, more especially at night times.

Some damage was done to the corn and flax crops by the heavy rains especially on heavy soils, where they became beaten and tossed and in some cases badly lodged. Haymaking was seriously impeded by the rains and much of the crop, which was cut early in July, suffered badly from weathering. In flooded areas heavy losses have occurred. A fair amount of progress was, however, made with the cutting of upland and seeds hay especially towards the end of the month when the weather improved slightly. Other outdoor work on the farm, such as the digging of the early varieties of potatoes and the spraying of the main crop as a preventative of blight disease, the renovation of hedges and the destruction of weeds, was carried out under difficulties last month but as a general rule farm work is much in arrear.

The corn and flax crops benefited from the weather in that they made rapid growth particularly in heavy soil areas as also did pasture lands. The aftermath is also reported to be in excellent condition. Grasslands have provided plenty of sustenance for live stock. The abundance of good keep is a satisfactory feature since the prices of fodder and concentrated food-stuffs rose during the month.

Cattle made a good thrive on the richer pastures and are in normal health. Sheep and lambs suffered to some extent from the excessive rains, and the latter made slow progress in growth during the month. The flocks in general, however, appear to be in good condition and comparatively free from pests.

THE CROPS.

WHEAT.—This crop made considerable improvement and is in a very satisfactory state. In some exposed districts the rains and storms have caused partial lodging. Granting favourable weather before harvesting, the returns from wheat should be better than anticipated earlier although perhaps below the average.

OATS.—As a general rule this crop is in excellent condition and the promise of good yields will most likely be realised should a spell of summer weather be experienced before harvesting. There has been a fair amount of damage caused by the rains and storm, and some fields are badly lodged, especially on lea lands. "Smut" is reported to be prevalent in parts of County Londonderry but elsewhere in the country a clean crop appears to be general.

Only small quantities of last season's oats were offered at markets last month when prices ranged from 5/- to 6/- per cwt.

BARLEY.—This crop also is in a very promising state and good average yields should be obtained. Lodging is prevalent in some areas and harvesting operations will be rendered difficult.

FLAX.—As a general rule the flax crop is in a promising state having made considerable improvement during the month and although the straw may be shorter than usual in some areas, on account of earlier setbacks, the returns in general should not be far short of the average. The rainstorms have caused an appreciable amount of "twisting" and lodging, particularly among the heavy crops, and it is also reported, that there has been an excessive amount of branching among crops of the White Concurrent variety. Pulling commenced last month and good yields of straw were obtained although in some instances it was rather short.

POTATOES.—The digging of the early varieties which was, generally speaking, later than usual this season was attended with satisfactory results, the returns in most instances comparing favourably with those of last season. The main crop varieties have made rapid growth and are in a promising state but in low-lying fields the drills are under water and considerable damage may result from "souring." On the whole, this crop is now in need of dry and warm weather. Blight has made its appearance but only in small patches. While the low temperatures ruling during the past month were mainly responsible for keeping the disease in check spraying has been carried out systematically.

Increased supplies of this season's early varieties of potatoes were marketed during the month and prices continued to decline fairly rapidly as the

following figures illustrate. Last season's prices are also included for comparison.

Average prices per cwt.					
Week ended		s.	d.	Week ended	s. d.
4.7.36	...	6	11	6.7.35	... 6 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
11.7.36	...	6	1	13.7.35	... 6 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
18.7.36	...	5	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	20.7.35	... 6 4
25.7.36	...	4	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	27.7.35	... 4 6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1.8.36	...	3	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	3.8.35	... 4 2 $\frac{1}{4}$

MANGELS.—The crop made slow progress during the cool and damp weather but as a general rule its condition is satisfactory. Weeds have proved troublesome this season.

TURNIPS.—Some crops especially those sown early have made good growth during July and are in a satisfactory state but in the case of late sowings, where fields were worked in a wet state, and in heavy soil areas, growth has been very slow and in some instances the plants have been scalded with the continuous rains. " Souring " is common in low-lying fields, weeds have spread rapidly and some fields are badly in need of cultivation.

HAY.—The weather has most seriously affected the harvesting of this crop which was a very slow process throughout the past month. In many cases where hay was cut at the end of June or early in July it was perforce left lying in the field whilst in low-lying areas flooding has rendered the crop almost useless. All hay cut last month suffered from weathering and its nutrient value adversely affected whilst in regard to crops still standing it is thought that the quality will also have deteriorated. A fair portion of first and second year (upland) hay has been cut and a start has been made with the harvesting of meadow and seeds hay. The yield of upland hay may be lighter than average whilst the bulk returns of other crops are expected to be of normal dimensions. The quality in most cases will be poor to medium. Small quantities of last year's crop at markets fetched higher prices averaging 70/- per ton for upland hay and 53/- per ton for meadow hay.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE.—Store cattle have improved in condition and are in normal health. In some instances young calves on grass have developed pneumonia from the abnormal wet and cold conditions. Dairy stock also are in good health and calving has been normal. The milk yield in general appears to have been maintained at the normal for the time of the year although in low-lying areas where grasslands have deteriorated with the heavy rains supplies have tended to decline.

Good average offerings of cattle at markets and fairs last month were a steady trade at around late rates. Large stores and choice dairy cattle were in best demand at firmer prices.

SHEEP.—The flocks are generally in good health. Maggots were the only source of trouble last month and dipping remedied matters before much damage was done. Lambs have, however, made slow progress, the excessive damp proving a considerable handicap to the normal rate of maturity.

The demand for fat lambs at fairs last month continued fairly good but trade for fat sheep was easier.

With the commencement of the breeding season breeding ewes of the cross-bred type have been meeting with a better enquiry. Prices for all descriptions were generally steady on the month and similar to those obtained in July, 1935.

PIGS.—Supplies of young pigs at fairs last month were slightly smaller than in June and trade was a little easier with prices declining from 31/5d. to 29/10d. per head on the month.

Sows for breeding were in small numbers and in fair request at from £6 10 0. to £9 per head for first litter and £8 to £12 for second litter animals.

HORSES.—The demand for good quality horses continues good but supplies were limited. Prices for good draught horses remained at around £50 per head whilst the best farm animals were quoted at from £30 to £55 per head.

MILK.

Supplies available for creameries were about the same as for June and prices paid to farmers for milk delivered to the creameries were from 3½d. to 4¼d. per gallon, the separated milk being returned to the farmer. The average price paid for all milk produced in Northern Ireland and delivered to creameries for manufacturing purposes was 3.96d. per gallon for the month of June, 1936, and the Ministry has made equalisation payments at 1.04d. per gallon in order to bring the average price in respect of this month to 5d. per gallon as provided by the Milk and Milk Products Act (Northern Ireland), 1934.

It should be noted that under the Regulations, creameries are required to distribute the equalisation payments in accordance with the butterfat content of the milk received from each supplier. Farmers should, therefore, bear in mind that the actual payments made to them, being calculated on a butterfat basis, may be at a rate per gallon which may vary below or above the average figure herein notified.

APPLES.

The damp and cool weather conditions prevailing during July have retarded the normal development of apples and the fruits are small in size; otherwise the position is unchanged since the last report was issued. Shipping of early varieties has commenced but trade so far has been much slower than at this

time last year. Prices generally are lower this season in sympathy with the lower rates prevailing for the heavy crops in Great Britain. Latest estimates of the probable yields of apples issued by the Ministry of Agriculture are as follows:—

EARLY COOKING VARIETIES (INCLUDING "LORD DERBY").

Cornwall 64; Devon 60/65; Hereford and W. Gloucester 70/75; Evesham and Pershore area 140; W. Sussex 75; E. Sussex 70; Kent—"Lord Derby" 50, others 75; S. W. Middlesex 65; Essex 70; Cambs. 70; Wisbech and W. Norfolk 60/80; E. Norfolk 70; Lincs. (Holland) 80.

BRAMLEY'S SEEDLING.

Cornwall 68/70; Devon 70/75; Hereford and W. Gloucester 60/65; Evesham and Pershore area 140; E. and W. Sussex 75; Mid. Kent 85; E. and N.W. Kent 70; S.W. Middlesex 65; Essex 70; Cambs. 60; Wisbech and W. Norfolk 75; E. Norfolk 75; Lincs. (Holland) 100.

The scale on which the index figures are based is as follows:—

Over 75—	very heavy.
75 to 66—	heavy.
65 to 56—	very fair.
55 to 46—	fair.
45 to 36—	poor.
35 to 26—	light.
25 or less—	very light.

THE MARKETS DURING JULY.

Increased supplies of homegrown vegetables were marketed last month. Pamphrey was in larger supply and $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. cheaper at $1/7\frac{1}{2}$ per dozen. A slightly larger quantity of cauliflower marketed in Belfast during the month sold at easier prices at from 3/- to 4/- per dozen. Leeks and parsley were more plentiful than a month ago. Leeks were $\frac{3}{4}$ d. cheaper at $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. per bunch, and parsley $3\frac{1}{4}$ d. cheaper at $5\frac{1}{4}$ d. per bunch. Fair supplies of carrots and parsnips marketed in Belfast during July averaged 6d. per bunch. Farmers' butter was rather more plentiful than a month ago. Print butter was $\frac{1}{4}$ d. cheaper at $1/1\frac{1}{4}$ per lb., and lump butter $\frac{3}{4}$ d. cheaper at $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. There was a further decline in the supplies of eggs marketed during the month, and prices continued their upward trend. Hen eggs improved further by $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., and duck eggs by $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $7/6\frac{3}{4}$ per 120. In the poultry markets hens, chickens and ducks were more numerous than in June. Hens were practically unchanged in price at $1/7\frac{1}{4}$ d. each; chickens were $4\frac{1}{4}$ d. cheaper at $2/0\frac{3}{4}$ each, but ducks were 3d. dearer at $1/10\frac{1}{2}$ d. each. Increased numbers of ducklings were marketed during the month and prices, which were about 6d. cheaper, ranged from 1/6 to 3/- and averaged $2/3\frac{1}{2}$ each. Supplies of wool were larger

than a month ago, mountain unwashed wool, in particular, being marketed in considerably increasing quantities during the month. Long unwashed wool was $\frac{1}{4}$ d. dearer at 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. and mountain unwashed wool $\frac{1}{2}$ d. dearer at 6d. per lb.

THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FIGURE.

The cost of living index figure at 1st July, 1936, was 46, or two points above that for the previous month. The figure at 1st July, 1935, was 43.

ACREAGE UNDER THE PRINCIPAL VARIETIES OF POTATOES.

Preliminary statement showing the acreage under the principal varieties of potatoes in 1936 with comparative figures for the years 1931-35 inclusive.

Varieties of Potatoes.		1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931
Arran Victory	I	55,030	50,539	51,895	53,467	54,516	51,174
Kerr's Pink	I	33,623	32,999	35,350	35,829	34,403	31,674
Arran Banner	I	10,902	8,831	7,057	4,962	2,029	850
British Queen	N	7,353	7,604	8,452	8,024	8,095	7,565
Arran Consul	I	6,584	7,515	6,986	6,875	7,024	5,128
Up-to-Date	N	4,980	7,468	11,411	11,622	13,248	16,406
Arran Chief	N	3,330	4,479	5,636	6,473	8,040	8,104
Epicure	N	2,076	2,214	2,527	2,550	2,827	1,245
Arran Cairn	I	2,014	396	21	—	—	—
Majestic	I	1,369	998	582	306	169	138
Champion	I	1,111	1,375	1,728	2,497	2,938	3,166
Other Varieties	—	3,368	4,597	5,676	6,416	8,499	8,753
Totals		131,740	129,015	137,321	139,021	141,788	134,203

I—Immune.

N—Non-Immune.

The area under potatoes in Northern Ireland for the year 1936 shows an increase of 2,725 acres or 2.1 per cent. The area under potatoes in England and Wales shows a decrease of 7,000 acres or 1.5 per cent. In Scotland the area under potatoes increased by 1,000 acres or 0.8 per cent. while the area in the Irish Free State decreased by 1,000 acres or 0.1 per cent.

Arran Victory and Kerr's Pink, still the most popular varieties grown in Northern Ireland, account for 42 per cent. and 26 per cent. respectively of the total acreage under potatoes. Arran Victory shows a fairly substantial increase of 4,491 acres while Kerr's Pink shows a slight decrease of 624 acres. Each of the varieties Arran Banner, Arran Cairn and Majestic show an increase in the area planted as compared with 1935. The acreage under Arran Banner increased by 2,071 acres or 12.3 per cent. under Arran Cairn by 1,618 acres or 408.6 per cent. and under Majestic by 371 acres or 37.1 per cent. A substantial decrease of 2,488 acres or 33.3 per cent. was again recorded in the acreage under the Up-to-Date variety and relatively large decreases are also recorded in the acreage under British Queen, Arran Consul,

Arran Chief, Epicure and Champion, as compared with 1935. The area under British Queen declined by 3.3 per cent., under Arran Consul by 12.4 per cent., under Arran Chief by 25.7 per cent., under Epicure by 6.2 per cent., and under Champion by 19.2 per cent.

Of the total area under potatoes in Northern Ireland, viz., 131,740 acres, 113,137 acres or 86 per cent. are of varieties immune to Black Scab or Wart Disease.

The following table shows the percentage of the total area planted with immune varieties for the period 1927 to 1936, and it will be observed that there has been a steady increase in the acreage under immune varieties in each year from 1927.

1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
86	82	78	78	76	74	70	69	68	63

DISTRIBUTION OF PIGS ON HOLDINGS IN N.I. AT 1st JUNE, 1936.

On page 16 of this report particulars are given of the numbers of pigs in Northern Ireland at 1st June, 1936, with comparative figures for the previous year. The number of breeding sows in June last was 56,467 as compared with 47,436 in June, 1935, while the total number of pigs increased from 457,878 to 521,255 over the same period. An analysis of the recent census returns has been made in order to ascertain the number of holdings on which pigs are kept and also the numbers of sows kept by individual producers.

The following table gives the number of holdings in each county and also the number on which pigs are kept. As the number of pigs kept on holdings under 1 acre is insignificant the extent of pig-keeping in each county can best be indicated by expressing the number of holdings over 1 acre on which pigs are kept as a percentage of the total number of such holdings.

County.	Total Holdings No.	Holdings over 1 acre. No.	Holdings on which pigs are kept. No.	Holdings over 1 acre on which pigs are kept. %
Antrim ...	24,326	16,306	7,940	48.7
Armagh ...	18,246	15,698	5,742	36.6
Down ...	33,063	20,164	7,033	34.9
Fermanagh ...	12,009	10,780	5,079	47.1
Londonderry ...	14,049	11,683	6,136	52.5
Tyrone ...	23,892	20,173	9,368	46.4
Northern Ireland	125,585	94,804	41,298	43.6

These figures indicate that there are over 41,000 pig-keepers in Northern Ireland, and that the proportion per county is greatest in Londonderry and Antrim and smallest in Down and Armagh.

The distribution of the sow population is shown in the next table in which the number of holdings in each county on which pigs are kept is compared with the number keeping sows.

County.	Holdings on which pigs are kept. No.	Holdings on which sows are kept.	
		No.	Percentage.
Antrim ...	7,940	4,507	56.8
Armagh ...	5,742	2,836	49.4
Down ...	7,033	4,674	66.5
Fermanagh ...	5,079	1,992	39.2
Londonderry ...	6,136	3,398	55.4
Tyrone ...	9,368	4,223	45.1
Northern Ireland ...	41,298	21,630	52.4

It will be noted that over the six counties sows are kept by roughly one out of every two pig-keepers, the proportion being highest in County Down and lowest in County Fermanagh.

The figures quoted above disclose that the sow population of 56,467 at the 1st June, 1936, was distributed over 21,630 holdings indicating an average of less than 3 sows per holding. The following table shows, by counties, the numbers of holdings with varying numbers of sows expressed as percentages of the total number of sow-keepers.

County.	One Sow.	Two Sows.	Three Sows.	Four Sows.	Five Sows.	Six Sows.	Seven Sows.	Eight or more Sows.	Total.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Antrim ...	31.9	27.7	17.2	10.1	4.5	2.9	1.4	4.3	100
Armagh ...	48.2	29.2	10.7	4.9	2.8	1.6	0.7	1.9	100
Down ...	31.6	25.1	16.4	10.0	5.0	3.5	1.7	6.7	100
Fermanagh ...	48.6	30.3	13.0	3.9	1.8	1.0	0.3	1.1	100
Londonderry ...	33.9	28.1	15.5	8.2	4.9	3.0	2.1	4.3	100
Tyrone ...	45.8	30.4	11.9	5.6	2.7	1.4	0.4	1.8	100
Northern Ireland ...	38.5	28.2	14.5	7.6	3.9	2.4	1.2	3.7	100

Taking Northern Ireland as a whole it will be seen that two-thirds of the holdings on which sows are kept have one or two sows and that about four-fifths have one, two or three sows. The numbers of farmers keeping one or two sows are relatively greatest in counties Fermanagh, Armagh and Tyrone.

PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

Table showing the Average Prices of Agricultural Produce in Northern Ireland during the Three Months ended 30th June, 1936, together with Comparative Figures for the same period in 1935, and the Average Prices ruling during the Second Quarter of the Years 1911-13.

COMMODITY.	Quarter ended 30th June.			Percentage increase or decrease in price as compared with the corresponding period 1911-13.
	NORTHERN IRELAND.		ULSTER	
	1936	1935	1911-13	
Oats (White) per cwt.	£ s. d. 0 5 4½	£ s. d. 0 5 8	£ s. d. 0 7 4	% -22.7
Potatoes do.	0 3 7	0 2 6	0 3 10	-34.8
Hay, Clover do.	0 3 4	0 2 11	0 3 6	-16.7
" Meadow, do.	0 2 7	0 2 2	0 3 4	-35.0
Calves (Young) per head	1 15 3	1 15 4	2 1 4	-14.7
Store Cattle, 6-12 months per head	6 14 2	6 0 9	5 8 8	+23.5
do. 1-2 years	9 2 3	8 6 6	8 2 1	+12.4
do. 2-3 "	11 7 8	10 1 6	10 11 0	+7.9
Fat Cattle, 2-3 " Cows & Bulls	13 18 4	13 13 8	14 8 9	-3.6
do. do. do.	11 4 5	10 9 8	13 16 2	-18.7
Stringers (Cows & Heifers) do.	14 7 8	13 10 11	14 19 9	4.0
Milch Cows (Down Calved) do.	13 11 4	12 14 3	13 17 4	-2.2
Lambs (under 12 months) do.	1 9 8	1 10 4	1 9 8	—
Fat Sheep 1-2 years, do. over 2 years	1 19 5	1 14 6	2 2 10	+1.7
Sows for breeding do.	1 14 0	1 15 2	2 5 4	-19.5
Young pigs, 8-10 weeks old do.	6 15 9	7 1 0	5 19 0	-22.4
Pork per cwt. †	1 11 2	1 9 8	1 7 4	+18.5
Butter, farmers, do.	+2 15 3	+2 18 2	2 17 10	+8.5
Hen Eggs, per lb.	5 10 4	4 18 0	4 16 10	—
..	0 0 5½	0 0 5½	*0 7 6	+13.9
				+1.2

*All Ireland prices per 120.

†Average prices calculated from purchase and grading statements, allowance being made for deductions for levy and contribution charges.

In most instances the average prices of agricultural products during last quarter, ended 30th June, will be seen, in the above table, to have ruled above those recorded for the corresponding period of 1935. Further, notwithstanding the fact that pre-war levels were not reached in many cases, two important sections of the industry, viz., store cattle and pigs, were generally more remunerative than in the years 1911/13, having regard also to the cheaper prices ruling for fodder and oats last quarter.

White oats continued to sell at slightly below last years prices, and were much cheaper than before the war. The other crop products listed viz., potatoes, clover, and meadow hay were however dearer than a year ago. All cattle showed a rise in price on the 1935 figures with the sole exception of young calves which were selling at similar rates. Store cattle improved in value by about 14/- to 26/- per head, according to age; fat cattle by about 5/- per head, and cows and bulls 15/- per head; dairy cattle generally were 17/- per head dearer. Lambs were little changed in price compared with last year and selling at their pre-war level; fat sheep (1-2 years) were 5/- per head dearer than last year, whilst older animals cheapened a shade. Sows for breeding also were selling at slightly lower rates than in 1935, but young pigs were making firmer rates despite the fact that they had considerably increased in number—a tribute to the Pigs Marketing Scheme.

Farmers' butter rose to a much higher price level than shown for the other periods, and hen eggs were $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. dearer than in 1935.

In connection with the prices of cattle it should be mentioned that no allowance has been made in the return for the subsidy which amounts to 5/- per live cwt. Some idea of the benefits derived by Northern Ireland farmers from the cattle subsidy may be gained from the particulars supplied on page 27 of this Report.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, 1936.

The preliminary figures of the acreage under crops and numbers of live stock in each part of the United Kingdom have now been published by the respective Departments, and it is of present interest to compare the changes which have occurred since 1935 in the crop areas and stock numbers. Briefly it may be said that the crop area is lower and the numbers of cattle fewer in each of the three countries than a year ago; that the larger number of sheep in England and Wales and Northern Ireland is more than offset by a smaller number in Scotland; decreases in the numbers of pigs in England and Wales and Scotland are more than offset by an increase in the number in Northern Ireland, and whilst Scotland and Northern Ireland both have poultry in greater numbers fewer birds were recorded in England and Wales.

Cereal crops in each of the three countries showed a decline in acreage of about 1.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago, and is principally accounted for by a smaller wheat acreage.

The wheat acreage in the United Kingdom is almost 78,500 acres less than a year ago. A decline in the acreage is recorded in each of the three countries. The crop is of course of most importance in England and Wales, which accounts for over 90 per cent. of the total acreage in the three countries, and is also responsible for almost 90 per cent. of the decline in the acreage. The greatest relative decrease, however, occurred in Northern Ireland.

A small increase of 1,000 acres in the acreage under oats in Scotland is more than offset by decreases of 1,600 acres in England and Wales, and 7,648 acres in Northern Ireland, but on the other hand an increase of 27,300 acres in the area under barley in England and Wales more than compensated a small decrease of 283 acres in this crop in Northern Ireland and of 2,500 acres in Scotland.

Root and green crops also declined in acreage as compared with a year ago; a decline of about 2.4 per cent. is recorded in England and Wales and of 1.8 per cent. in Scotland, but a small increase of 0.3 per cent. is recorded in Northern Ireland. Potatoes were planted on a somewhat smaller area in England and Wales, but in Northern Ireland and in Scotland the acreage was increased. The net decline in the potato acreage of the United Kingdom is almost 3,300 acres, or less than one-half one per cent. The main fodder crops, turnips, swedes, mangolds, and hay, were also grown on a smaller acreage in the United Kingdom than in 1935.

Turning to Live Stock, a decline of almost 42,000 occurred in the numbers of cattle in the United Kingdom, of which Northern Ireland is responsible for almost 30,000; the decline is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in both England and Wales

and Scotland. The sheep population, however, increased in both Northern Ireland and England and Wales, but a relatively large decline of 2.5 per cent. in the numbers in Scotland more than offset the increase in these two countries. In the case of pigs a relatively large decline in the number of 9.1 per cent. in Scotland, and a small decline of 0.3 per cent. in England and Wales, was more than offset by an increase of 13.8 per cent. in Northern Ireland. The number of pigs in Northern Ireland is now more than double the number in Scotland, and is over ten per cent. of the total pig population of the United Kingdom.

Increases in the number of poultry occurred in both Scotland and Northern Ireland, but a slight decline of 1.2 per cent. is recorded in England and Wales.

The following table shows for each division of the United Kingdom the area under the principal crops and the numbers of live stock in June, 1936, as compared with June, 1935 :—

	NORTHERN IRELAND.			ENGLAND AND WALES.			SCOTLAND.		
	1936	1935	% change	1936	1935	% change	1936	1935	% change
Wheat ..	6,873	9,067	-24.2	1,703,000	1,772,300	-3.9	94,000	101,000	-6.9
Oats ..	265,040	272,688	-2.6	1,417,000	1,418,600	-0.1	828,000	827,000	+0.1
Barley ..	2,823	3,106	-9.1	819,000	791,700	+3.4	74,000	76,500	-3.3
Potatoes ..	131,737	129,015	+2.1	455,800	462,800	-1.5	133,000	132,000	+0.8
Turnips, Swedes and Mangolds ..	32,460	34,353	-5.8	694,500	748,600	-7.8	349,200	354,400	-1.5
Hay ..	425,703	424,136	+0.4	5,999,500	6,031,300	-0.5	571,000	575,000	-0.7
Cattle ..	769,663	799,251	-3.7	6,533,900	6,541,000	-0.1	1,313,300	1,318,500	-0.4
Sheep ..	834,754	818,304	+2.0	16,630,500	16,477,000	+0.9	7,570,000	7,766,000	-2.5
Pigs ..	521,255	457,878	+13.8	3,801,100	3,813,400	-0.3	236,400	250,200	-9.1
Poultry ..	10,569,746	10,084,670	+4.8	61,358,000	62,107,000	-1.2	8,208,000	8,148,500	+0.7

The area under crops and number of live stock in Northern Ireland are shown in detail on pages 15 and 16.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, 1935-36.

Preliminary Statement of Acreage under Crops and numbers of Live Stock in Northern Ireland at 1st June, 1936, with comparative figures for the year 1935.

(The figures for the year 1936 are subject to revision).

I.—ACREAGE UNDER CROPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

	1936	1935	Increase (+) or decrease (—) as between 1935 and 1936.	
Corn Crops	Acres	Acres	Acres	%
Wheat	6,873	9,067	— 2,194	—24.2
Oats	265,040	272,688	— 7,648	— 2.6
Barley	2,823	3,106	— 283	— 9.1
Rye	273	254	+ 19	+ 7.5
Beans and Peas	550	660	— 110	—16.7
Total extent under Corn Crops ..	275,559	285,775	— 10,216	— 3.6
Green Crops				
Potatoes	131,737	129,015	+ 2,722	+ 2.1
Turnips	31,287	33,358	— 2,071	— 6.2
Mangels	1,173	995	+ 178	+17.9
Cabbage	1,373	1,775	— 402	—22.6
Other Green Crops	1,847	1,828	+ 19	+ 1.0
Total extent under Green Crops ..	167,417	166,971	+ 446	+ 0.3
Flax	25,377	27,755	— 2,378	— 8.6
Fruit	8,439	8,541	— 102	— 1.2
Total extent under Corn and Green Crops, Flax and Fruit	476,792	489,042	— 12,250	— 2.5
Hay				
Rotation	215,455	207,128	+ 8,327	+ 4.0
Permanent	210,248	217,008	— 6,760	— 3.1
Total extent under Crops ..	902,495	913,178	— 10,683	— 1.2

II.—NUMBERS OF LIVE STOCK IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

				1936	1935	Increase (+) or decrease (—) as between 1935 and 1936.	
				No.	No.	No.	%
Cattle							
Milch Cows	..	..		249,802	252,297	— 2,495	— 1.0
Heifers in Calf	..	..		25,128	27,339	— 2,211	— 8.1
Other Cattle—							
Two years old and upwards	..	..		86,099	88,355	— 2,256	— 2.6
One year old and under two years	..	..		198,876	216,490	— 17,614	— 8.1
Under 1 year	..	..		209,758	214,770	— 5,012	— 2.3
Total Number of Cattle	..	..		769,663	799,251	— 29,588	— 3.7
Sheep							
Ewes for breeding purposes	..	..		381,526	367,030	+ 14,496	+ 3.9
Other Sheep	..	..					
One year old and upwards	..	..		49,930	52,822	— 2,892	— 5.5
Under one year	..	..		403,298	398,452	+ 4,846	+ 1.2
Total Number of Sheep	..	..		834,754	818,304	+ 16,450	+ 2.0
Pigs							
Sows for Breeding	..	..		56,467	47,436	+ 9,031	+19.0
Other Pigs—							
Six months old and upwards	..	..		34,088	29,190	+ 4,898	+16.8
Over three months and under six months	..	..		170,872	147,171	+ 23,701	+16.1
Under three months	..	..		259,828	234,081	+ 25,747	+11.0
Total number of Pigs	..	..		521,255	457,878	+ 63,377	+13.8
Goats and Kids	..	..		39,899	41,668	— 1,769	— 4.2
Horses							
Used in Agriculture	..	..		81,294	83,291	— 1,997	— 2.4
Unbroken Horses—							
One year old and upwards	..	..		5,565	5,020	+ 545	+10.9
Under one year	..	..		3,962	3,358	+ 603	+18.0
Mules and Jennets	..	..		178	197	— 19	— 9.6
Asses	..	..		7,362	7,433	— 71	— 1.0
Poultry							
Turkeys	..	..		389,273	407,175	— 17,902	— 4.4
Geese	..	..		139,017	147,139	— 8,122	— 5.5
Ducks	..	..		498,722	525,236	— 26,514	— 5.0
Ordinary Fowl	..	..		9,542,734	9,005,120	+ 537,614	+ 6.0
Total Number of Poultry	..	..		10,569,746	10,084,670	+ 485,076	+ 4.8

The outstanding features of the agricultural returns for 1936 are the continued increases in the numbers of sheep, pigs and poultry, each of which established new high records. Although the numbers of cattle show a decrease of 29,588 as compared with a year ago, the number recorded, 769,663 is greater than in any other year since 1922. In this connection it is of interest to record that the shipments of cattle during the twelve months

ended 31st May, 1936, were 25,353 greater than in the corresponding twelve months ended 31st May, 1935.

CROPS.

All the corn crops except rye declined in area as compared with a year ago, the acreage falling by 10,216 acres to 275,559 acres. Wheat, mainly owing to the unfavourable weather conditions at sowing time last autumn, was grown on 2,194 acres less than in 1935, and occupying 6,873 acres is the lowest acreage recorded since 1933. The acreage under oats, 265,040 acres, is less by 7,648 acres than in 1935 and is the lowest acreage ever recorded under this crop. The acreage under barley was 2,823 acres, which, although 283 acres less than in 1935, is greater by 389 acres than the acreage recorded in 1934. Beans and peas also showed decreases in acreage as compared with 1935, but a small increase occurred in the acreage under rye.

In the case of root and green crops a small increase was recorded as compared with 1935. Potatoes were grown on 131,737 acres as compared with 129,015 acres in 1935, and mangels also showed an increase of 178 acres, the crop occupying 1,173 acres as against 995 acres a year ago. Turnips, however, were only grown on 31,287 acres as compared with 33,358 acres in 1935, a decrease of 2,071 acres, whilst cabbage also showed a decline of 402 acres.

A relatively large decrease occurred in the area under flax, which declined by 2,378 acres to 25,377 acres. The acreage under fruit also showed a decline to 8,439 acres from 8,541 acres in 1935.

The acreage under rotation hay increased from 207,128 acres to 215,455 acres in 1936, a relatively large increase of 8,327 acres, but permanent hay decreased from 217,008 acres to 210,248 acres.

The net result is a decrease in the area under crops and hay of 10,683 acres. The decrease in the area under crops and rotation grasses for hay has however been more than offset by an increase in the area under lea grazing.

LIVE STOCK.

All classes of cattle declined in numbers between 1935 and 1936. Milch cows declined by 2,495 from 252,297 to 249,802. Although fewer in numbers than in 1934 or 1935, the numbers of milch cows are greater than in any of the years between 1929 and 1933. A substantial decline also occurred in the number of heifers in calf, only 25,128 being recorded as against 27,339 in 1935 and 31,946 in 1934, but the number is greater than in any other year since 1908—the first year in which heifers in calf were separately enumerated. Other cattle also declined in numbers, but the total number of cattle recorded—769,663—although 29,588 fewer than in 1935, is greater than in any year since 1922.

The number of sheep recorded—834,754—an increase of 16,450, creates another new high record for Northern Ireland.

The number of pigs recorded has for the third successive year established a new high record, and for the first time the annual returns show a pig population in excess of 500,000. The number recorded, 521,255, is an increase of 63,377 or 13.8 per cent. as compared with 1935. The number of sows increased by 19.0 per cent. from 47,436 to 56,467, and is the greatest number ever recorded in Northern Ireland.

A new high record was established for the numbers of poultry, and for the first time the numbers exceeded ten and one half million. The increase is due entirely to a greater number of ordinary fowls as turkeys, geese and ducks were all fewer in number than a year ago.

Horses used in agriculture were 81,294, or 1,997 fewer in number than in 1935, but a relatively large increase of 13.7 per cent. took place in the numbers of unbroken horses.

MARKETING SCHEMES.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING (PIG INDUSTRY) ACT (N.I.), 1934 :—

PIG PRICES FOR AUGUST, 1936.

The Pig Industry Council for Northern Ireland have announced the following prices for dead pigs sold by producers to curers in Northern Ireland in August, 1936. These prices are slightly below those of last month.

Weight Class. (Dead Weight)	Grade A.	Grade B.	Grade C.	U.L. or U.F.
I c.1.1.14 to c.1.2.14	59/5	56/5	53/5	50/5
II c.1.2.15 to c.1.3.14	59/5	56/5	53/5	50/5
III c.1.3.15 to c.2.0.0	56/5	53/5	50/5	47/5
IV c.2.0.1 to c.2.0.14	50/5	47/5	44/5	41/5

U.L.—Under Grade A measurements.

U.F.—Over Grade C measurements.

The price for partly black pigs between c.1.1.14 and c.2.0.14 will be 5/- per cwt. below the relevant grade price.

Authorised cuts :—

- (a) Broken ham (dry, shank and/or shell bone break)—5% of the gross value of the carcase.
- (b) Broken ham (wet break)—12½% of the gross value of the carcase.
- (c) Shoulder-stuck carcase—3/- per shoulder affected.

The gross value of a carcase is the product of the dead weight and the relevant grade or other price per cwt.

Where portion of a pig carcase weighing between c.1.1.14 and c.2.0.14 is condemned and the existence of disease could not reasonably have been known to the producer at the time of slaughter the appropriate grade price shall apply. If the carcase is wholly condemned on account of disease, the existence of which could not reasonably have been known to the producer at the time of slaughter, the relevant Grade B price shall apply.

The foregoing prices do not apply in the case of (a) wholly black pigs, boars, rigs or stags, sucked sows, and pig carcasses weighing under c.1.1.14

or over c.2.0.14 and (b) pigs visibly diagnosable as diseased before slaughter and subsequently condemned; emaciated or screw pigs; smelling pig carcasses with definite indications of putrefaction and pig carcasses badly abused or damaged before being handed over by the producer to the curer.

PRICES FOR WILTSHIRE PIGS SOLD ON DIRECT CONTRACT.

In the case of pigs sold alive under direct contract to Wiltshire curers the prices per dead cwt. payable for graded pigs delivered in respect of the month of August will be as follows:—

Weight Class (Dead Weight)	Grade I.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.
Under c.1.0.14	53/5	53/5	53/5
c.1.0.14 to c.1.2.7	65/5	61/5	57/5
c.1.2.8 to c.1.2.10	62/5	58/5	54/5
c.1.2.11 to c.1.2.14	60/5	56/5	52/5
Over c.1.2.14 .. .	57/5	53/5	49/5

(The standard price, exclusive of bonus, for bacon pigs sold by contract in Great Britain during August is 11/6 per score dead weight, equivalent to 64/5 per cwt.).

PRICES FOR LIVE PIGS SOLD TO THE PIGS MARKETING BOARD.

The following prices per live cwt. will be paid for live pigs by the Pigs Marketing Board on and from August 1, 1936, until further notice:—

Weight Class (Live Weight)	Grade 1	Grade II.	Grade III.	Unsuitable.
c.1.2.0 to c.1.3.14	49/6	47/-	44/6	38/-
c.1.3.15 to c.2.0.0	45/6	43/-	—	38/-
c.2.0.1 to c.2.1.14	43/-	40/6	—	38/-
c.2.1.15 to c.2.2.7	40/6	38/-	—	35/-
c.2.2.8 to c.2.2.21	37/-	34/6	—	31/-

These prices do not apply to live pigs outside the above weights, live pigs intended for breeding, live boars, live sucked sows, rigs or stags, injured or diseased pigs, live in-pig gilts, or live pigs sold (on contract registered with the Pig Industry Council) to curers in Northern Ireland. All other live pigs inside these weights can be sold only to the Board.

AUTHORISED DEDUCTIONS.

Every pig (dead or alive) sold to a curer or to the Pigs Marketing Board is subject to a contribution at present amounting to 1/-.

In addition to this amount, a deduction not exceeding 6d. per pig may be made in the case of sales to curers to cover insurance, so that the producer will not suffer financial loss if the carcase is condemned as unfit for human consumption.

In the case of pigs sold to the Board, there is a deduction of 2/6 per pig for marketing charges.

COST OF STANDARD PIG RATION.

The average retail cash price per cwt. of the standard ration as calculated by the Ministry for the sixteen weeks' period ended 18th July, was 7/1½d. This price was used together with the realised prices of bacon and hams and of fresh meats over a set period, to determine the standard price of pigs for August.

The ration upon which the feeding cost is based is as follows:—

Barley Meal	...	...	...	30%
Maize Meal	...	...	...	40%
Pollards (White)	...	...	...	20%
Extracted Soya Bean Meal	...	...	...	5%
Meat and Bone Meal (60% Protein)	...	...	...	5%

GRADING STATISTICS.

Table showing the percentages of pig carcasses falling within the weight and grade classes indicated during June, 1936.

Grade A.				Grade B.				Grade C.				Total
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
18.75	12.86	1.40	.22	15.59	16.28	2.33	.47	6.22	8.82	.80	.14	83.88

UNGRADED CARCASSES.

Under Grade A measurements. U.L.	Over Grade C measurements. U.F.	Wholly condemned. U1.	Wholly black, injured or damaged. U2.	Overweights, Underweights, boars, sows, etc. X.	Partly Black. Y.	
.02	4.33	.07	.73	10.94	.03	16.12
Total						100%

The above figures have been calculated from the purchase and grading statements which the curers furnish to the Ministry.

There was a further seasonal increase in the volume of trade during June. There was an increase in the standard price from 55/10 per cwt. in May to 57/- per cwt. in June. The average price paid for each carcass, less deduction for levy and contribution charges was £4 9s. 7d., a reduction of 1/9 on the previous month. The average weight per pig was unchanged at c.1.2.12 and the average price of pork was 1/1 more than in May at 55/9 per cwt.

The following table gives the result of an analysis of the purchase and grading statements furnished by Wiltshire bacon curers in respect of live pigs delivered on direct contract by producers during the month of June, 1936.

Weight Class.	Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Unsuitable.	Total.
Under c.1.0.14	.29	.61	.05	.03	.98
c.1.0.14 to c.1.2.7	37.43	44.55	13.21	.11	95.30
c.1.2.8 to c.1.2.10	.20	.92	.40	—	1.52
c.1.2.11 to c.1.2.14	.20	.61	.40	—	1.21
Over c.1.2.14	.03	.37	.59	—	.99
Total	38.15	47.06	14.65	.14	100

The average price per cwt. in respect of these deliveries works out at 61/3 after making allowance for levy deductions. The average weight works out at c.1.1.15, the net average price per pig being £4 5s. 2d.

THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING (REMOVAL OF PIGS) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1934.

The above Regulations prescribe that any person removing pigs from Northern Ireland to Great Britain must be authorised by the Ministry and hold either a quota certificate or a pig export permit.

On Friday, 24th July, 1936, a pig dealer was fined £3 and £1 16s. costs at Cookstown Petty Sessions for an infringement of these Regulations.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1934.

DETERMINATION OF JOINT MILK COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND IN RESPECT OF THE PERIOD 1st SEPTEMBER, 1936, TO 31st AUGUST, 1937.

PART I. PRODUCER'S PRICES.

(1) From the 1st day of September, 1936, until the 31st day of August, 1937, inclusive, milk of Grade A, Grade B and Grade C shall be sold by the holder of a Producer's licence to the holder of a Distributor's licence at the

following prices for quantities of not less than two gallons per day delivered at the Purchaser's premises:—

- (a) For milk sold loose in level daily deliveries:

Milk of Grade A—not less than $1/2$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade B— $1/-$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade C— $1/-$ per gallon.

- (b) For milk sold loose in varying daily deliveries:

Milk of Grade A—not less than $1/5$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade B— $1/3$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade C— $1/3$ per gallon.

- (c) For milk bottled by the producer—not less than $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per gallon above the price for the appropriate grade and type of delivery of milk sold loose, bottles and caps being supplied by the Purchaser.

(2) The above prices are subject to a deduction in respect of carriage (hereinafter referred to as a "Collecting Charge"), when this service is performed by the Purchaser.

(3) The maximum collecting charges which may be deducted from the above prices are as follows:—

- (a) When the distance between the Purchaser's premises and the point at which the milk is collected or the Vendor's farm (whichever is the nearer to the Purchaser's premises)—

does not exceed 5 miles	...	...	...	...	$\frac{3}{4}d.$
exceeds 5 miles but does not exceed 10 miles	...	...	...	...	$1d.$
exceeds 10 miles but does not exceed 15 miles	...	...	...	...	$1\frac{1}{4}d.$
exceeds 15 miles but does not exceed 20 miles	...	...	...	...	$1\frac{1}{2}d.$
exceeds 20 miles but does not exceed 25 miles	...	...	...	...	$1\frac{3}{4}d.$
exceeds 25 miles but does not exceed 35 miles	...	...	...	...	$2d.$
for each 10 miles or part thereof in excess of 35 miles an additional charge of	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}d.$

- (b) Where the Purchaser's premises are situated in the County Borough of Belfast, the scale of maximum collecting charges set forth above shall apply with the substitution of the City centre for the Purchaser's premises.

- (c) Where milk is delivered by rail to Belfast County Borough so as to arrive after 9-30 a.m., the Purchaser may deduct $\frac{1}{4}d.$ per gallon from the price payable to the vendor in addition to any collecting charge which may be deducted in respect of the carriage of the milk by the Purchaser from the railway terminus in Belfast County Borough to his premises.

PART II. SALE BY CONTRACT.

From the 1st day of September, 1936, until the 31st day of August, 1937, inclusive, all milk of Grade A, Grade B or Grade C, sold by the holder of a Producer's licence to the holder of a Distributor's licence in quantities of not less than two gallons per day shall be sold under contract. Subject to the provisions of Section Seven of the Milk and Milk Products Act (Northern Ireland), 1934, all such contracts shall be in the prescribed form, or in a form to a like effect, and the terms of such contracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of the paragraph set forth above and entitled "Producer's Prices". All contracts for the sale of milk by holders of the Producer's licences to holders of Distributor's licences shall be submitted to the Joint Milk Council for Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") for registration and the Council shall register all such contracts.

Provided that—

- (a) Subject to the provisions of Section Seven of the Milk and Milk Products Act, (Northern Ireland), 1934, the Council may refuse to register a contract which is not in accordance with the aforesaid terms or in the prescribed form.
- (b) The Council may refuse to register a contract if one of the parties thereto has previously been a party to a contract registered with the Council which has been determined by reason of the non-fulfilment by that party of the terms of the said registered contract.

PART III. RETAIL PRICES.

(1) Subject to the provisions of Section Seven of the Milk and Milk Products Act (Northern Ireland), 1934, milk of Grade A, Grade B, and Grade C sold by retail or to the holder of a Distributor's licence by the holder of a Producer's licence in quantities of less than two gallons per day, and delivered to the purchaser in the following areas in Northern Ireland shall, during the periods indicated, be sold at the following prices:—

- (a) In the County Borough of Belfast, the Borough of Bangor, the Urban Districts of Carrickfergus, Holywood, Lisburn. Newtownards, the Rural Districts of Belfast and Castlereagh, the portion of the Hillsborough Rural District comprised in the District Electoral Division of Breda, the portions of the Larne Rural District comprised in Eden town, the District Electoral Division of Carrickfergus Rural and the townland of Kilroot, the portions of the Lisburn Rural District comprised in the District Electoral Divisions of Dunmurry, Lambeg and Malone:

from the 1st day of September, 1936, to the 31st day of August, 1937, inclusive:

Milk of Grade A—not less than 2/- per gallon.

Milk of Grade B—1/10 per gallon.

Milk of Grade C—1/8 per gallon.

(b) In the Urban Districts of Ballycastle, Donaghadee, Larne, Newcastle, Portrush, Portstewart, Warrenpoint and Whitehead:

(i) from the 1st day of September, 1936, to the 31st day of May, 1937, inclusive:—

Milk of Grade A—not less than $\frac{1}{10}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade B—not less than $\frac{1}{8}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade C—not less than $\frac{1}{6}$ per gallon.

(ii) from the 1st day of June, 1937, to the 31st day of August, 1937, inclusive:—

Milk of Grade A—not less than 2/- per gallon.

Milk of Grade B— $\frac{1}{10}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade C— $\frac{1}{8}$ per gallon.

(c) In the portions of the Coleraine Rural District comprised in Castle-rock town and the District Electoral Division of Portstewart Rural, the portion of the Kilkeel Rural District comprised in the District Electoral Division of Rostrevor, and the portions of Newtownards Rural District comprised in the District Electoral Divisions of Crawfordsburn, Donaghadee and Groomsport and Millisle town,

(i) from the 1st day of September, 1936, to the 31st day of May, 1937, inclusive:—

Milk of Grade A—not less than $\frac{1}{8}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade B—not less than $\frac{1}{6}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade C—not less than $\frac{1}{4}$ per gallon.

(ii) from the 1st day of June, 1937, to the 31st day of August, 1937, inclusive:—

Milk of Grade A—not less than 2/- per gallon.

Milk of Grade B— $\frac{1}{10}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade C— $\frac{1}{8}$ per gallon.

(d) In the Borough of Coleraine, and the Urban Districts of Armagh, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Banbridge, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Lurgan, Newry, Omagh and Portadown:

from the 1st day of September, 1936, to the 31st day of August, 1937, inclusive:—

Milk of Grade A—not less than $\frac{1}{10}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade B—not less than $\frac{1}{8}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade C—not less than $\frac{1}{6}$ per gallon.

(e) In all other areas in Northern Ireland except in the County Borough of Londonderry and the Urban District of Strabane:

from the 1st day of September, 1936, to the 31st day of August, 1937, inclusive:

Milk of Grade A—not less than $\frac{1}{8}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade B—not less than $\frac{1}{6}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade C—not less than $\frac{1}{4}$ per gallon.

(2) Exceptions:

(a) (i) A daily sale of not less than two gallons of milk to one consumer; or

(ii) Milk sold by retail and collected by the Purchaser from the vendor's premises;

may be sold at not more than 4d. per gallon less than the retail price fixed for the area concerned.

(b) Milk sold to public hospitals may be sold at not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per gallon in the case of milk of Grade A, and not less than 1/- per gallon in the case of milk of Grade B or Grade C.

(c) Milk sold to an education authority within the meaning of the Education Act (Northern Ireland), 1923, for the purpose of a scheme for the provision of meals for children in attendance at public elementary schools within the education area, may be sold at not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per gallon in the case of milk of Grade A, and not less than 1/- per gallon in the case of milk of Grade B or Grade C.

(d) Milk of Grade A, Grade B, or Grade C sold for the purpose of the manufacture of ice cream to a person whose main business is the manufacture and sale of ice cream may be sold at not less than 1/1 per gallon:

provided that this exception shall not apply to sales of milk which, in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this Determination, may be made at less than 1/1 per gallon.

(e) In any area in respect of which $\frac{1}{10}$ per gallon and $\frac{1}{8}$ per gallon have, by the foregoing provisions of this Determination, been determined as the respective prices at which milk of Grade B and milk of Grade C may be sold by retail, milk of these grades may be sold by retail in bottles containing not more than one-third of a pint at the following rates, respectively:—

Milk of Grade B—not less than $\frac{1}{10}$ per gallon.

Milk of Grade C—not less than $\frac{1}{8}$ per gallon.

(f) The Council may, in special circumstances, exempt any particular class of sale from the operation of the provisions of this Determination.

CATTLE INDUSTRY (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) ACTS, 1934 AND 1935.

The latest information to hand from the Cattle Committee is to the effect that the total amount paid to Northern Ireland owners in respect of subsidy up to and including 1st August, 1936, was £485,943 17s. 6d. and was in respect of 232,380 animals. The average payment made in respect of each animal was therefore £2 1s. 10d.

Payments made from the Cattle Fund during the week ended 1st August, included those in respect of 1,897 cattle from Northern Ireland of which 1,418 were steers, 433 heifers and 46 cow heifers. The total weight of these cattle was 15,275 cwt. and the total realised price £26,123 5s. 0d. The average weight of each beast was 8c. 0q. 6lb. and the average payment received in respect of subsidy £2 0s. 3½d. The average price obtained per head £13 15s. 0d. and per live cwt. 34/2.

WHEAT ACT, 1932.

REDUCTION IN QUOTA PAYMENT.

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, on the recommendation of the Wheat Commission, has made Orders in pursuance of the powers conferred upon him by the Wheat Act, 1932, giving an estimate of the supply of home-grown millable wheat and reducing the amount of the quota payment which every miller and every importer of flour is liable to make to the Wheat Commission in respect of each hundredweight of his output of flour.

The first of these Orders,—The Wheat (Anticipated Supply) No. 2 Order, 1936—prescribes the quantity of home-grown millable wheat of their own growing which the Minister anticipates will be sold by registered growers during the 1936-37 cereal year, as 26,000,000 cwt. (approximately 5,780,000 qrs. of 504 lbs.).

In the second Order,—The Wheat (Quota Payments) No. 2 Order, 1936—the Minister has, in the light of estimates furnished by the Wheat Commission and of the surplus in the Wheat Fund at the 31st July, 1936, prescribed that the quota payment in respect of deliveries of flour during the period commencing on the 9th August, 1936, shall be 9.6d. per cwt. (equivalent to 2/- per sack of 280 lbs.). This is a reduction of 1/- per sack on the rate which has been in force since the 23rd February, 1936.

The new Quota Payments Order comes into operation on the 9th August, 1936, and quota payments will accrue due at the new rate in respect of all deliveries of flour taking place on or after that day.

In cases where flour or bread is exported on or after the 9th August, 1936, the repayment of quota payment to the exporter will be made by the Wheat Commission at the new rate.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

SEASONAL FARM NOTES.

THE LAND.

HAY.—The prolonged period of broken weather during the haymaking season has resulted in the completion of the saving of this crop being considerably delayed. The loss incurred by unfavourable weather conditions should not be further increased by allowing the crop when saved to remain in field “ricks” for unduly long periods. This practice not only results in the hay at the sides and bottoms of the “ricks” becoming damaged and either unfit for feeding purposes, or materially reduced in feeding value, but also prevents stock from being turned on and making full use of the aftermath. The “ricks” should be removed, therefore, as soon as the hay is in a fit condition for storing either in sheds or in large stacks.

SEEDS HAY.—Hay cut for seed-saving purposes should be threshed as soon as the crop is in a fit condition to permit of this being done. If the crop is allowed to remain in field “huts” or “ricks” for a prolonged period, discolouration of the seed, with a consequent reduction in market value, is liable to occur, particularly should periods of wet weather supervene. The seed should be stored under dry and well-ventilated conditions, on a loft, if available, and turned frequently to dry it thoroughly and to prevent heating from taking place.

POTATOES.—The second spraying of the potato crop to prevent blight should be carried out immediately, if not already done. Weather conditions this season have been favourable to the spread of this disease and every effort should, therefore, be made to ensure that spraying is carried out thoroughly and in good time. Late planted crops should receive special attention in regard to spraying, as otherwise they may be destroyed by the disease before the tubers are fully developed, resulting not only in disappointing yields being obtained but also in a high proportion of blighted tubers. Such crops should receive a third spraying about three weeks after the second spraying has been carried out. Particulars regarding the preparation and application of the spraying mixtures recommended are given in Leaflet No. 50.

Crops of early potatoes should be lifted now as opportunity offers. The seed for next year's crop should be carefully selected at lifting time and stored in sprouting boxes. It is an advantage to leave the filled boxes in an open shed for some time, so that the seed may be "greened" and hardened before being finally stored away.

CATCH CROPS.—Ground from which early potatoes have been dug can be profitably utilised by planting it now with cabbages to provide succulent food for stock next spring at a time when roots are becoming scarce and before the grazing season commences. Italian ryegrass is also a useful crop to grow for this purpose, and on suitable ground, will produce a heavy yield of succulent food. It should be sown at the rate of from 3 to 4 bushels per statute acre and harrowed in lightly.

TURNIPS AND MANGELS.—These crops will benefit considerably from continued cultivation between the drills where it is still possible to do so. Weeds, such as redshank, if allowed to grow unchecked, are liable to spread rapidly at this season in root crops.

WEEDS.—If not already done, the destruction of weeds should be carried out without further delay. Neglect to do so is likely to lead to a prosecution, besides increasing the numbers of the weeds in subsequent years.

Rushes in pastures should also be cut when time permits. Cutting twice in the year, in early spring and again during August, considerably reduces infestations of these weeds.

OATS.—In the earlier districts, oats will be ready for cutting during August. It is a common mistake to allow oats to become dead ripe before harvesting; over-ripening before cutting leads to a loss of grain through shedding, a reduction in the feeding value of the straw, and, frequently, to increased difficulties in harvesting operations. It is, therefore, much better to cut the crop when it is still showing a shade of green and to allow full ripening to take place in the stock, than to postpone cutting until fully ripe.

BARLEY.—Crops of barley, particularly those intended for malting purposes, on the other hand, should on no account be cut until fully ripe. Unlike oats, barley will not ripen after it is cut, and the grain from crops which are cut before full ripening has taken place will be of inferior quality. Information relating to the harvesting of barley is given in an article on page 34 of this report.

SEASONAL LIVESTOCK NOTES.

CATTLE.—Pastures deteriorate in feeding value at this season, and the necessity of feeding a mixture of concentrates to maintain milk yields of cows giving two gallons or more per day may again be emphasised. A mixture of

equal parts crushed oats, maize meal and decorticated earthnut cake, fed at the rate of 3 lb. for each gallon of milk produced over two gallons is suitable for this purpose.

Where aftermath is available, it affords a useful supplement to pastures at this time and is an aid in maintaining milk yields. It is necessary, however, to exercise care when turning stock on to aftermath as serious digestive troubles may arise if cattle are grazed for long periods on luxuriant aftermath, containing an abundance of clover. The cattle should not be turned on when they are very hungry, or when the aftermath is damp or wet, and they should not be allowed to remain on for more than a few hours at a time until they become accustomed to the change.

Young calves should be given an allowance of concentrates to prevent them from losing condition coming on to the winter. In districts where "husk" or "hoose" is liable to occur, young stock should be kept indoors at night from the middle of August onwards and not allowed out in the morning until the dew is off the grass. They should, if possible, be kept off pastures on which outbreaks of this disease have occurred in previous years and grazed on fresh clean pasture such as aftermath. This, combined with housing at night, and maintaining the animals in a thriving condition by hand feeding, will aid considerably in controlling outbreaks of the disease. Further hints on the control of "husk" or "hoose" are given in Leaflet No. 81, and information relating to calf rearing is given in Leaflet No. 54.

SHEEP.—Where early lambs are desired, the breeding ewes may be mated with the ram during this month. As the ram has a very important influence on the quality of the lambs produced, every farmer should use the best ram which he can afford to buy. A premium scheme for rams is in operation in all counties, and farmers in the vicinity of premium holders should take the opportunity of having some of their ewes served with these superior premium animals at a nominal fee. Further information relating to this scheme can be obtained from the Secretary of the Committee of Agriculture for the county. Particulars of the Shows and Sales at which premium rams will be selected are given in the list of Shows on page 42 of this report. Useful hints on the care and management of sheep are given in Leaflets Nos. 47 and 63.

PIGS.—Attention is again directed to the value of separated milk for all classes of pigs. This food is very valuable in the case of sows rearing litters and for young pigs after the weaning stage. The use of separated milk will obviate the necessity to include expensive protein substitutes such as soya bean meal or meat meal in the meal mixture. For bacon pigs about one quart of separated milk per pig daily is a suitable allowance, and if this quantity is used, there is not any risk of the ration being an unbalanced one. Where milk is not available the most desirable substitutes, in the case of fattening

pigs, are high grade meat meal and extracted soya bean meal. On no account should fish meal be used in meal mixtures for bacon pigs owing to the risk of producing of inferior quality having objectionable taints. Neither should cod-liver oil or linseed cake meal be fed to fattening pigs, as these foods produce soft, oily bacon. Particulars of suitable meal mixtures for fattening pigs, which can be made up on the farms, are given in Leaflet No. 35.

SEASONAL GARDEN AND ORCHARD NOTES.

STRAWBERRIES.—New plantations of strawberries should be made during the month of August, if possible. The ground should be well prepared by deep digging or ploughing. A dressing of good farmyard manure should be worked in and from two to three cwt. of superphosphate per acre applied when the ground is being harrowed prior to planting. Runners for planting should be selected from healthy productive plants, free from aphides and other insect pests. Runners should not be taken indiscriminately from diseased or insect-infested plantations. The plants must be made firm in the soil and planted so that their crowns are at soil level. Too shallow and too deep planting are the cause of many failures.

Established plantations should be thoroughly cleaned, if not already done. Care must be taken during the cleaning operations to ensure that no damage is done to the crowns and that the soil is not drawn away from them; in fact, the soil should be drawn up round the crowns. Particulars of the cultivation of strawberries are given in Leaflet No. 68.

CELERY.—Celery plants of early varieties should be earthed up as required. Next month the main crop varieties should be ready for the first earthing up. Care must be taken when placing the earth against the plants that none of it is allowed to get into the centres of the plants.

CABBAGE.—Cabbage plants from the July sowing may now be transplanted to a nursery bed, inserting them about three inches apart and giving a thorough watering afterwards. When transplanted in this way the plants are generally more robust when required for planting out during September than if left in the original seed-bed.

ONIONS.—When the foliage of onions begins to turn yellow the bulbs should be lifted and spread on a hard surface, or suspended in an airy shed, so that they may ripen thoroughly. During the process of ripening the onions should not be allowed to get wet. Seeds of a suitable variety of Tripoli onion such as "Red Indian" for planting out in spring may be sown about the middle of August. A sheltered but not shaded position should be selected for the seed bed.

SEASONAL POULTRY-KEEPING NOTES.

SELECTION OF BREEDING STOCK.—Where it is desired to produce eggs for hatching early in the season, hens approaching the end of their first laying season should be rigorously culled now and only the best birds retained for breeding purposes. The importance of selecting breeding stock on the basis of vigour, health and body size is again emphasised. While egg recording must continue to be a valuable means of determining laying capabilities and of identifying the poor producers and the layers of small, badly-shaped and badly-shelled eggs, there is no doubt that selection on records of production alone has contributed largely to the high rate of mortality in poultry flocks. Longevity and good health in the birds are essential for successful poultry farming, and unless these qualities are inherent in the breeding stock it is unreasonable to expect the resulting progeny to be satisfactory in these respects.

In selecting a hen for a breeding pen her egg production record should not come first in the list of requirements. No other consideration should be allowed to interfere with selection for good health, vigour and stamina. Further hints on the selection of laying hens for breeding purposes are given in Leaflet No. 29.

The selection of good cockerels for breeding is of as much importance, if not more, than that of the hens, since the male birds influence a far greater proportion of the progeny than do the hens. Only strong, well developed birds, typical of their breed, from hens having good egg records, should be chosen. The undersized precocious type should be avoided. In this connection, poultry keepers who intend purchasing cockerels are advised to read the article on page 43 of this report dealing with the Northern Ireland Pedigree Poultry Breeding Station. Appended to this article is a list giving the names and addresses of persons who had copper ringed hens mated at this Station last season, and from whom it may be possible to obtain cockerels and also pullets from high producing strains.

MANAGEMENT OF BREEDING STOCK.—Hens which have been selected for breeding purposes, should be put out on free range and encouraged to take a rest from production, so that they may moult and be in a suitable condition to produce eggs for hatching early in the season. An article dealing with the management of the breeding stock subsequent to, and after, moulting is given on page 37 of this Report, and also in Leaflet No. 83—“The Care, Management and Feeding of the Poultry Breeding Stock”.

PULLETS.—Pullets from early hatched flocks should now be transferred to their winter laying quarters and liberally fed, but not forced to come into production unduly early. Protein rich foods, such as fish meal, meat and bone meal, soya bean meal and separated milk, should be fed sparingly and greater

use made of body building foods, such as bran and grain. The aim should be to have the pullets well developed in size before laying begins. Birds which mature too rapidly and start laying at an early age produce small eggs and rarely prove satisfactory. It is better to cull out such birds and sell them for table purposes, along with those which show lack of vigour or poor health. The removal of these birds will provide more housing accommodation for those birds which are to be retained.

The transfer to the laying quarters should take place before the birds show signs of coming into production. Moving them whilst in lay will not only put them off production but may also induce moulting, with a consequent serious drop in egg yield.

Ample housing accommodation for the pullets is essential, if good production is to be obtained. Overcrowding is conducive to the occurrence of colds and other maladies which follow as a result of excessive heating during the night. Such ailments seriously interfere with production, besides retarding development, and may result in impaired constitution. If the birds are on free range, each should be allowed about nine inches of perching and two square feet of floor space in the house.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF LAYING HOUSES.—Before the pullets are transferred, the houses should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. All interior moveable fittings should be dismantled and thoroughly scrubbed and disinfected. For disinfection a five per cent. solution of Jeyes' Fluid (1 part of Jeyes' Fluid in twenty parts water), or other reliable brand of disinfectant, should be used. Subsequently, the interior of the house should receive a coating of fresh limewash, to which paraffin oil, at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ pint to each gallon of limewash, has been added.

Necessary repairs to the exteriors of the houses should also be attended to in good time, and the walls, if of wood, treated with a preservative, such as creosote, while the roof should receive a coating of tar. It is also an advantage, in the case of houses of the fixed type, to put down a layer of gravel or cinders around the door; ordinary river gravel is quite suitable for this purpose. The gravel helps to clean the feet of the birds entering the house, and is thus a useful aid in obtaining clean eggs, particularly during periods of damp weather. The gravel should be renewed from time to time.

TURKEYS.—Young turkeys should be allowed to range as much as possible at this season. Fields from which hay has been harvested are very suitable for this purpose, as they are fresh and clean. The birds should be allowed access to such fields, if they are convenient to the homestead. The food for turkeys at this time may consist largely of grain, but one feed of soft mash should be given daily. Information relating to the rearing of turkeys is given in Leaflet No. 37.

THE HARVESTING OF BARLEY INTENDED FOR MALTING PURPOSES.

The attention of farmers, who grow barley for malting purposes, is directed to the importance of exercising care in the harvesting of the crop, and particularly to the necessity for allowing the crop to be fully ripened before cutting, if samples which will realise best prices are to be produced. The Ministry has received complaints that many samples of Northern Ireland barley are of inferior quality and that the grain has been adversely affected by improper harvesting. Such samples realise a low price and it is, therefore, in the interests of the farmers themselves to produce barley which will compare favourably with imported supplies.

Barley will not ripen after it is cut, and it is of the utmost importance, therefore, that the crop should be allowed to become dead ripe before harvesting commences. When ready for cutting the whole crop is dead white in appearance with no trace of greenness in the straw, the heads are turned downwards, and the individual grains hard and dry.

Barley must be completely dry before it is stacked, and if it has been allowed to ripen fully, the time in the stook is greatly shortened, and there is less risk, with exposure to bad weather, of discoloration and deterioration of the grain. When it has been grown as a nurse crop the bottoms of the sheaves will frequently contain a certain amount of grass, which prolongs the drying period in the stook, and, with the climatic conditions usually prevailing in Northern Ireland, it may be an advantage to leave the sheaves in stook for a few days only, after which the crop can be put in small ricks or "huts" in the field to complete the drying process before carting in.

If barley is stacked in a dry sound condition the colour of the grain generally improves very considerably before threshing commences. Many of the samples offered contain too much moisture and in this connection it should be noted that the longer the barley remains in the stack the smaller will be the percentage of moisture. It is not good practice to build barley into large stacks. The best results are always obtained when the crop is put into small stacks, and it is a further advantage if provision is made in the stacks for ventilation to ensure circulation of air and to prevent heating. Drain pipes or potato sprouting boxes can be used for this purpose.

If barley is to realise a good price it should be carefully threshed. When the crop is severely treated in threshing, owing to the concave of the machine being set too close to the drum, the grains may be broken and damaged. Closely dressed grain is not admired or sought after by maltsters, and the threshing, therefore, should be carefully performed.

Finally, the aim of the farmer should be to place on the market a pale golden yellow, clear-skinned, dry barley, showing a little awn.

“FINGER AND TOE” OR “CLUB ROOT” DISEASE.

This disease attacks the roots of a number of species of plants all of which belong to the cabbage family. These include turnip, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, etc., weeds such as charlock and wild mustard, and flowering plants such as wallflower, stock and candytuft.

“Finger and toe” disease is caused by a fungus which thrives in acid soils deficient in lime. The fungus gains entrance to the plant, probably through the fine root hairs, and makes its way to the deeper lying layers of the roots, where it attacks the cells and stimulates them to produce the characteristic swellings from which the disease derives its popular name. These swellings may take the form of spindle-shaped thickenings or tumour-like outgrowths and the roots become very deformed. The result is that a large portion of the root system is destroyed and plants which are attacked in the early stages of growth die off. Eventually masses of minute spores or “seeds” are produced which escape into the soil when the swellings decay, or are carried into storage with the affected roots.

CONTROL.—On land subject to attacks of this disease, liming, to neutralise the acidity in the soil, should be carried out. A dressing of freshly burnt lime at the rate of about 2 tons per statute acre (1 lb. per square yard) should be applied during autumn or early winter after the ground has been ploughed or dug. The lime should be lightly worked into the soil. The application thereafter of additional lighter dressings of lime at the rate of about 1 ton per acre ($\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per square yard) for two or three years in succession is recommended.

While the liming of infected ground improves soil conditions it may not give immediate control of the disease. Recent experiments have shown however that the treating of the ground around the plants with a solution of mercuric chloride (corrosive sublimate) enables a crop to be grown on infected land, but that such treatment, although it gives complete control of the disease for one season, is not a preventive of future attacks. The solution is made up by dissolving one ounce of mercuric chloride in from 8 to 10 gallons of water. It is best to melt the material in about one quart of hot water and to add sufficient cold water to make the solution up to the required bulk when the mercuric chloride has completely dissolved. Sufficient of this solution, (approximately half a pint), to saturate the soil in the immediate vicinity, should be poured around each plant at the time of planting out.

As mercuric chloride is extremely poisonous the utmost care is necessary in its use. The solution, which should be made up in a wooden, earthenware, or glass vessel, and applied with a cup or glass, should not be left where stock of any kind have access to it. The vessels used in its preparation and application should either be destroyed after use or washed thoroughly before being used for any other purpose. If washed, the washing water should not be thrown out where stock may have access to it.

On land subject to attacks, it is an advantage not to grow cabbages and other related crops in the same piece of ground in successive years. A rotation of crops, that is the growing of a crop of a particular class after one of another class, not only aids in preventing diseases and insect pests but also enables a greater use to be made of the manurial reserves in the soil, since the manurial requirements of the different classes of crops are not alike. Leaflet No. 67—"The Cultivation of Vegetables"—gives full particulars regarding suitable rotations of garden crops. Copies of this leaflet can be obtained free on request from the Ministry.

Manure from stock fed on diseased roots should not be used for the growing of vegetables, as such manure is nearly certain to contain the "seeds" of the disease and will contaminate the ground for future crops of the cabbage family, even though it is used in the first instance for a crop which is not subject to the disease.

THE MANAGEMENT AND FEEDING OF THE POULTRY BREEDING STOCK.

With the development of the heavy-laying capacity in birds which have been selected and bred for several generations for egg production has come, simultaneously, the ability of such birds to continue laying late into the autumn of their pullet year production. In fact, the continuance of laying until autumn and the consequent non-occurrence of the moult until September, or even later, have been regarded as attributes of the good layer. While it is not suggested that it is wrong to regard continued laying and late moulting as undesirable occurrences, it is altogether wrong, from the point of view of preparing birds for breeding, to permit the pullets to continue laying until late autumn in order to determine whether or not they comply with the standards prescribed for good layers. There is nothing to gain and everything to lose by doing so. Many poultry keepers, and particularly those who have pens of pullets at the Laying Test, make the grave mistake of encouraging the birds, on their return from the Test, to continue laying so as to get spectacular records, with the result that laying continues until October or even November when they moult and do not resume laying until, say, February. Thus, eggs for hatching are not obtainable from them during the early part of the hatching season, and the opportunity of breeding early-hatched cockerels is lost.

This short-sighted policy has been responsible, to some extent, for bringing discredit on Laying Tests, inasmuch as it meant that good birds were still "tired" when eggs for hatching were collected from them, and the cause of the disappointing results, which were sometimes obtained, was attributed to the effect of conditions at the Test, instead of to the fact that the

birds were mismanaged after they arrived home from the Test. The good results which were obtained at the Laying Test from pullets bred from copper-ringed hens at the Hillsborough Breeding Station, show that birds which lay well at a Test are in no way impaired as breeders if they are given a good rest before they produce eggs for hatching. The management, during the late summer and autumn, of the birds which are intended for breeding is, therefore, a matter of vital importance to the poultry keeper.

As the time for hatching is put forward, so must the time for all other operations, in order to ensure a normal cycle of events throughout the year. It is the failure to appreciate this fundamental point in management which has been largely responsible for the rapid deterioration in the quality of the birds in some present-day flocks. If the period of hatching is changed from April to March, from March to February and from February to January, and the period when the resulting pullets are "put off laying" is not changed to a correspondingly early date, it follows that these birds are being expected to lay throughout a period of, at least, three months longer than the normal. This extension of the pullet laying period means that the birds are not in lay again at the time eggs for hatching are required and, accordingly, the birds from the succeeding generation of pullets are called upon to fill requirements for hatching eggs. It is seen, therefore, that early hatching, without altering the rest of the programme, is indirectly the cause of much of the breeding from pullets which is being practised.

Breeding from pullets is not necessary with a properly-planned scheme of management, even though hatching is done early in the season. All that is necessary is to plan the management of the birds during their pullet year so as to ensure that they shall have a good rest during the early autumn and be ready and fit to resume laying in November, December and January, when eggs for hatching are wanted.

PUTTING THE PULLETS OFF LAY AND FORCING THEM TO MOULT.

The secret of getting the two-year-old birds to lay in November, December and January, is merely a matter of management. It consists in inducing the pullets to go into a moult during the previous August and early September, so that egg production will cease; and then feeding them properly after moulting is general, so as to get them back into condition for the resumption of laying.

Before a pullet will moult she must be put off lay so that the food will be used for the making of new feathers instead of for the making of eggs. It is only when new feathers begin to grow that the old ones fall out and moulting occurs. Therefore, the forced moult can be divided into three distinct stages, (1) cessation of laying, (2) growing of new feathers, and (3) resumption of laying.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS.

GENERAL.

BLOOD-TESTING OF POULTRY.—Poultry keepers are reminded of the importance of having their stock blood-tested to detect “carriers” of Bacillary White Diarrhoea disease. If not already done, application to have blood-testing carried out, should be made immediately to the Poultry Instructor for the district, or to the Secretary, Committee of Agriculture for the County. Unless applications are received in good time, there may be considerable delay in having blood-testing carried out.

ACCREDITED POULTRY FARMS.—Poultry keepers who wish to have their names added to the Ministry’s register of accredited poultry farms should make application without delay. Copies of this Scheme and application forms, and of the Scheme for the blood-testing of poultry, can be obtained free from the Ministry on request.

STORMONT EGG LAYING TEST.—The next Egg Laying Test at Stormont begins on the 2nd October. The test provides a cheap and valuable means of identifying good laying strains of poultry, and is also of the utmost value as a means of detecting birds which are likely to be suitable for breeding. Birds which qualify for copper or brass rings are eligible for entry at the Official Breeding Station, Hillsborough. Entries are now being received, and all those desiring to enter pens should post their entries so that they will reach the offices of the Ministry not later than the 1st September next. A summary of the arrangements for the Test is given on page 43 of this Report.

PEDIGREE BREEDING STATION.—Poultry breeders who desire to enter copper ringed hens at the Official Breeding Station, Hillsborough, should communicate with the Secretary, Agricultural Research Institute, Hillsborough. The present Laying Test at Stormont will end on 4th September next, and notification of the birds gaining copper rings, which are eligible for entry at the Station, will be sent to owners as soon as possible thereafter.

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE.—The next session at Greenmount Agricultural and Horticultural College begins on the 13th October.

TRAINING FOR GIRLS.—The next session at the Ulster Dairy School, Cookstown, and at the North-West School, Strabane, begins on the 13th October. Applications for scholarships to the North-West School should be made by intending pupils as soon as possible to the Secretary, County Committee of Agriculture. Applications for admission to the Ulster Dairy School should be sent to the Ministry as soon as possible. Prospectuses of both schools, which contain application forms, can be obtained free from the Ministry, on request.

LICENSING OF BULLS.—The autumn inspections of bulls for licensing will be carried out during this month.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.—Members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary are now carrying out inspections of farms with a view to ascertaining if all noxious weeds have been destroyed. Land owners, on whose lands such weeds are still growing, are strongly advised to have the weeds destroyed at once. By doing so they are improving the land, preventing increased infestations of weeds in future years and avoiding the risk of a prosecution.

EGG MARKETING COMMITTEE.

The following persons have been nominated, in accordance with the Regulations, as candidates for election to the Egg Marketing Committee by licensed wholesale dealers. The number of vacancies in each Electoral Division is shown in brackets :—

CLASS A.

Electoral Division I. (3 members).

Robert Bell, 2 Wellington Place, Belfast.

William MacAdam, c/o. Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh.

James Pepper, c/o. Messrs. J. Harvey and Co., Ltd., Kenlis Street, Banbridge, Co. Down.

G. D. Sweeny, c/o. Messrs. Honeyford and Co., Ltd., Main Street, Strabane, Co. Tyrone.

Electoral Division II. (1 member).

R. A. McElderry, The Markets, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

H. Roberts, c/o. Messrs. Thomas Robinson, Sons and Co., Ltd., Canal Basin, Strabane, Co. Tyrone.

Electoral Division III. (1 member).

Robert Coulter, Browndodd, Doagh, Co. Antrim.

A. E. Gale, c/o. Messrs. A. E. and R. Gale, Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh.

CLASS B. (2 members).

William Allen, New Villas, Union Street, Lurgan, Co. Armagh.

William John Brown, Tamlaghtmore, Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone.

Miss Rita Burns, Drumaness, Ballynahinch, Co. Down.

William F. Dunlop, Ballybundon, Killinchy, Co. Down.

Samuel Robert Elliott, Main Street, Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh.

A Morrison, Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry.

David McComb, 231a Castlereagh Road, Belfast.

Samuel James McDowell, 1 Larne Street, Ballymena, Co. Antrim.

Michael McGurk, R.D.C., Co. Councillor, Killeenan, Kildress, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone.

James McParland, Meredith Place, Armagh.

Peter O'Rourke, Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone.

Thomas Patterson, Drumaness, Ballynahinch, Co. Down.

Voting papers will be issued not later than Monday, 31st August, 1936, to all persons entitled to vote in the election. Instructions as to the manner in which the voting paper is to be completed will be given on the paper, which, in order to count in the election, must be returned, properly completed to the Ministry's offices not later than Saturday, 5th September, 1936.

Particulars as to the date on which the count will be made will be notified to each candidate.

FIXTURE LIST OF FORTHCOMING SHOWS.

Title of Society or Association.	Centre.	Date.
Royal Ulster Agricultural Society (Autumn Show)	Balmoral, Belfast	24th September
COUNTY ANTRIM.		
Templepatrick Working Men's Association (Horticulture) ...	Templepatrick	21st August
North Antrim Horticultural Association	Ballymoney	27th August
Ballymena Horticultural Society	Ballymena	2nd-3rd September
Ulster Horticultural Society ...	Belfast	18th & 19th November
COUNTY DOWN.		
Bangor Horticultural Society ...	Bangor	19th & 20th August
Waringstown Horticultural Society ...	Waringstown	28th August
Newtownards Horticultural Society ...	Newtownards	3rd September
COUNTY FERMANAGH.		
Fermanagh Farming Society ...	Enniskillen	2nd September
COUNTY LONDONDERRY.		
Coleraine and District Horticultural Society	Coleraine	4th September
Culmore Horticultural Society ...	Culmore	22nd August
City of Derry and District Horticultural Society	Londonderry	9th September (provisional)

Shows and Sales of Ulster Ram Breeders Association at which premium rams will be selected :—

Place of Sale.	Date.	Breed of Sheep.
Messrs. Robson's Mart, Stewart Street, Belfast	2nd & 3rd September	Border Leicester
Messrs. Allam's Mart, Oxford Street, Belfast	9th & 10th September	Black-face
Messrs. Allam's Mart, Oxford Street, Belfast	23rd & 24th September	Border Leicester

REGISTRATION OF ACCREDITED POULTRY FARMS.

The Ministry proposes to issue a revised Register of Accredited Poultry Farms for the hatching season 1936/37, and applications for registration must be lodged not later than the 30th September next. Registration is recognised for one season only, so that breeders whose farms were registered last year should now renew their applications if they desire to be considered for registration in the revised Register.

The object of the registration scheme is to make available to prospective purchasers of hatching eggs, day-old chicks and older stock, a list of farms from which supplies of good quality may be obtained, and, at the same time, to ensure that so far as can be ascertained the birds are free from Bacillary White Diarrhoea disease. The conditions of the scheme pertaining to registration are, therefore, designed to achieve that object, the main condition being that the stock must be tested and must all pass the test each year.

In addition, all birds on each farm must be of standard pure breeds, and of reasonably good type. No restrictions are imposed in regard to the number of breeds represented on each farm, provided that the various breeds are kept separate. In special cases breeding pens may be mated for the production of first crosses between two pure breeds. Only birds which are at least twelve months old may be included in the breeding pens.

Should an outbreak of disease occur on an accredited farm, or on another farm, and is definitely known to have originated from eggs, chicks or stock supplied by an accredited farm, the owner of the accredited farm is required to undertake to cease supplying hatching eggs, chicks or stock until an investigation has been made and it has been conclusively established as a result of blood testing that the farm is again free from disease.

Breeders intending to have their farms considered for inclusion in the Register should make application without delay to the Ministry, and in the meantime should take the necessary steps to have the condition as regards blood testing fulfilled. Full particulars regarding fees for blood testing and other arrangements in connection with this service will be found in the Ministry's Scheme for the Blood Testing of Poultry. Copies of this Scheme, and of the Registration Scheme, together with copies of the prescribed form of application both for blood testing and for registration may be obtained, free of charge, either from the local Poultry Instructor or from the Ministry.

THE PEDIGREE POULTRY BREEDING STATION.

Most poultry breeders will be considering at this time of year what is to be their breeding policy for the coming season, and will be concerned also with the problem of obtaining fresh blood to mate to their own stock. If they are engaged in egg production, and wish to be certain that the fresh strain they are to introduce is a high producing one, they can achieve this object by obtaining cockerels which have been bred at the Official Pedigree Poultry

Breeding Station at Hillsborough. They will thus ensure that the birds they buy have been bred from copper-ring hens and sired by cockerels whose pedigrees include copper-ring hens for several generations. As can be understood, the prices expected by their owners for these specially selected, officially bred cockerels, are higher than in the case of cockerels bred from farm flocks, but breeders should realise that it is good economy in the long run to obtain the best possible stock for breeding, even though the initial cost is considered high.

An alternative method of introducing strains bred at the Official Breeding Station, and one which is comparatively inexpensive, is to purchase some pullets which were bred at the Station. These pullets could either all be retained on the home farm, or a pen of six sent to the next Stormont Laying Test which commences on 2nd October; in either case cockerels for the 1938 breeding season could be bred from them. If a pen were sent to the Test, and any or all of the birds obtained copper rings, these would be eligible for entry at the Breeding Station in the autumn of 1937, and in this way officially bred cockerels would be obtained cheaply.

Several owners of birds which were bred this season at the Hillsborough Station are willing to sell pullets as well as cockerels, and to assist breeders in obtaining officially bred birds the list hereunder is published. This list gives the names and addresses of the breeders who had birds mated at the Breeding Station last season, the official copper ring numbers of the hens mated and the approximate numbers of the selected cockerels and pullets which were returned from the Station to each owner. The last column indicates those breeders who are willing to sell some of their birds, the letter C denoting those who wish to sell cockerels, and the letter P those who wish to sell pullets.

Intending purchasers may see from this list where they are most likely to get the birds they require. They should write as soon as possible to the breeders they select so as to ensure getting a good choice of birds. If more information regarding the matings at the Breeding Station is desired, intending purchasers should write to the Secretary, Agricultural Research Institute, Hillsborough, County Down, for a copy of the Stud Book which will be published soon.

Poultry keepers will also be afforded an opportunity of obtaining suitable breeding stock at the Show and Sale of Utility Poultry which will be held at the Autumn Show of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society at Balmoral, Belfast, on the 24th September next, at which classes are provided for (a) copper-ringed hens, (b) cockerels bred from copper-ringed hens at Official Breeding Stations, (c) pullets bred from copper-ringed hens at Official Breeding Stations. The Ministry of Agriculture will provisionally select cockerels which are of the standard required for poultry stations, and premium cards will be displayed on the pens occupied by the birds so selected.

It should be noted that the County Poultry Stations scheme now provides for increased premiums being payable in respect of those stations on which one or more cockerels which were bred at the Official Breeding Station are being used in the station pens.

An auction sale of birds entered in the selling classes will take place during the Show, and this should provide a convenient means of obtaining birds for breeding. Full particulars of the breeding, egg pedigree, etc., of each bird will appear in the Show Catalogue, and it should be noted also that birds entered in these classes must have passed the test for Bacillary White Diarrhoea.

The cockerels offered at this sale will, therefore, (a) have official pedigree records both as regards breeding and egg production, (b) be classified in relation to a standard of type and quality, (c) have passed the Bacillary White Diarrhoea test.

Particulars of birds which were bred at the Official Breeding Station in 1936 and returned to their owners:—

WHITE WYANDOTTE.

Owner.	Address.	Copper Ring No. of hens.	No. of cockerels sent to owner.	No. of pullets sent to owner.	Birds for sale. C—cockerels P—pullets.
Greenmount Agricultural and Horticultural College ...	Muckamore, Co. Antrim	U1/35	9	7	C
do.	do.	U2/35	6	4	
Mr. R. A. Copeland	Blackscull, Dromore, Co. Down	U8/35	1	3	—
Mrs. C. E. Crooke	The Rocks, Blaney, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	U125/35	2	1	—
Mrs. H. G. Darley	Trory, Ballinamallard Co. Fermanagh	E334/35	14	4	C
Mr. T. Foote	Broughmore, Maze, Lisburn, Co. Antrim	U12/35	10	16	—
Lt.-Col. J. P. Galbraith	Clanabogan, Omagh, Co. Tyrone	U13/35	10	5	C
do.	do.	U15/35	1	7	
Mrs. D. C. Gamble	Roan Lodge, Coalisland, Co. Tyrone	U24/34	2	2	—
do.	do.	U150/35	—	1	—
Mrs. E. Johnston	Craigboy, Donaghadee, Co. Down	U19/35	4	4	C & P
do.	do.	U59/34	7	10	
Miss E. E. Kennedy	Tullyreagh, Glarryford, Co. Antrim	U21/35	9	13	—
Miss M. M'Allister	Turnpike House, Backna- mullagh, Dromore Co. Down	U132/35	—	1	—
Mr. G. M'Cormick	Brookend House, Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone	U23/35	13	1	C
do.	do.	U24/35	5	9	—

WHITE WYANDOTTE—Continued.

Owner.	Address.	Copper ring No. of hens.	No. of cockerels sent to owner.	No. of pullets sent to owner.	Birds for sale. C—cockerels P—pullets.
Mrs. R. M'Cullough	Bruslee, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim	U138/35	1	1	—
Mrs. R. M'Dowell	Glenford, Glenoe, Larne, Co. Antrim	U140/35	7	3	—
Mrs. J. M'Neill	Drain's Bay, Larne, Co. Antrim	G28/35	4	12	C
do.	do.	G34/35	8	2	
Mrs. A. Peel	Oakleigh, Rose's Lane Ends, Ballinderry, Co. Antrim	U28/35	1	1	—
Mr. F. W. Pelan	Sycamore Hill, Lambeg, Lisburn, Co. Antrim	U30/35	2	1	C
Mr. T. Ross	Portmuck, Islandmagee, Co. Antrim	U148/35	1	—	—
Mrs. H. E. Stevenson	Dreemore, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone	U31/35	22	13	C & P
Mr. J. C. Stewart	Balloo, Killinchy, Co. Down	U32/35	8	2	C
do.	do.	U33/35	10	21	
Mr. R. Tolerton	Holborn Hall, Plantation, Lisburn, Co. Down	U36/35	4	12	C
do.	do.	U19/34	1	4	
Mrs. M. J. Veitch	Erne View, Knockninny, Thompson's Bridge, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	U153/35	5	9	—
Villa Colony	Purdysburn, Co. Down	U37/35	10	16	—
Poultry Farm	do.	U38/35	3	3	—
do.	do.	U39/35	2	2	—
Mr. J. Warnock	Tower View, Rathgael, Bangor, Co. Down	U41/35	10	14	—
do.	do.	U42/35	10	2	C & P
do.	do.	U57/34	2	1	
Mr. H. L. Watson	Mount Nebo, Gilnahirk, Belfast	U44/35	—	2	—
Miss E. L. Wilson	The Hill, Moneycree, Co. Armagh	U155/35	12	5	—

RHODE ISLAND RED.

Owner.	Address.	Copper ring No. of hens.	No. of cockerels sent to owner.	No. of pullets sent to owner.	Birds for sale. C—cockerels P—pullets.
Mrs. R. Abernethy	Cherry Hill, Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone	U79/35	3	4	—
Mrs. H. H. Dickson	Lower Coagh, Coagh, Co. Tyrone	U183/35	6	3	C
Mrs. E. R. Dunwoody	Benmore, Islandmagee, Co. Antrim	U62/35	1	2	—
Mrs. H. Farr	Thornleigh, Ballyginney, Dundrum, Co. Down	U207/35	21	18	—
do.	do.	U209/35	14	7	—
Mrs. M. Finlay	Langfield, Armoy, Co. Antrim	U98/34	2	1	C
do.	do.	U65/35	11	13	

RHODE ISLAND RED—*Continued.*

Owner.	Address.	Copper ring No. of hens.	No. of cockerels sent to owner.	No. of pullets sent to owner.	Birds for sale. C—cockerels P—pullets.
Miss M. L. Fleming	Ballymenagh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone	U186/35	13	20	C & P
Mrs. H. M. Fletcher	Ashgrove, Lisadian, Hillsborough, Co. Down	U68/35	11	9	—
Mr. T. Foote	Broughmore, Maze, Lisburn, Co. Antrim	U69/35	11	11	—
Miss. A. M. Fulton	Thornhill, Ballykelly, Co. Londonderry	U237/35	10	12	—
do.	do.	U236/35	6	10	—
Mrs. H. Getty	Hillcrest, Newtownards, Co. Down	U81/35	14	9	C
do.	do.	U96/34	7	2	
Mrs. G. Hegan	Spamount, Sherrygroom, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone	U73/35	2	2	—
Miss J. A. Irwin	Mount Irwin, Tynan, Co. Armagh	C687/35	15	16	C
do.	do.	C594/35	6	1	
Miss E. E. Kennedy	Tullyreagh, Glarryford, Co. Antrim	U110/34	8	10	—
Mrs. E. Kerr	The Manse, Upper Ballin- derry, Co. Antrim	U83/35	9	12	—
Mrs. J. E. Lavery	Rosemount, Kilvergan, Lurgan, Co. Armagh	U190/35	6	5	—
Mrs. W.M'Cullough	Carnalbanagh, Ballymena, Co. Antrim	U91/35	13	10	C & P
do.	do.	U92/35	12	9	—
Mrs. R. M'Giffert	Rathcunningham, Toye, Belfast	U224/34	—	1	
do.	do.	U195/35	8	9	C
do.	do.	U197/35	6	8	
Mrs. J. A. M'Kee	Aughnagurgan, Lower Darkley, Keady, Co. Armagh	U199/35	4	1	
Miss S. M'Kee	Ardmillan House, Killinchy, Co. Down	U202/35	10	4	C
do.	do.	U204/35	6	1	
Mrs. J. M'Master	Little Ballymena, Brough- shane, Co. Antrim	U205/35	4	6	—
do.	do.	U206/35	15	11	—
Mr. T. J. M'Millan	Crossgar, Co. Down	U93/35	5	14	—
Langford Lodge Poultry Farm	Langford Lodge, Crumlin, Co. Antrim	U85/35	2	3	—
Mr. W. Patton	The Hill, Loughries, N'townards, Co. Down	U127/34	6	7	—
Mrs. H. Rea	Lisowen, Listooder, Crossgar, Co. Down	U211/35	9	16	C
do.	do.	U213/35	21	21	
Mr. M. Scott	Crumlin, Co. Antrim	U95/35	4	8	
do.	do.	U100/35	8	12	
do.	do.	U243/34	5	9	C & P
do.	do.	U96/35	11	6	
do.	do.	U98/35	5	4	
do.	do.	U99/35	11	9	
Mrs. H. E. Stevenson	Dreemore, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone	U106/35	7	10	C & P
Mr. S. A. Upton	Drumscill, Maze, Lisburn, Co. Antrim	U109/35	17	20	C
Mr. J. Warnock	Tower View, Rathgael, Bangor, Co. Down	U88/35	5	6	C & P
do.	do.	U89/35	7	17	

WHITE LEGHORNS.

Owner.	Address.	Copper ring No. of hens.	No. of cockerels sent to owner.	No. of pullets sent to owner.	Birds for sale. C—cockerels P—pullets.
Mrs. J. Brown	Gorsebank, Culcrum, Cloughmills, Co. Antrim	U157/35	4	3	C
Mrs. F. R. Browne	Lakeview, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	U82/34	4	3	—
Mrs. E. R. Dunwoody	Benmore, Islandmagee, Co. Antrim	U46/35	—	3	—
Mrs. H. M. Fletcher	Ashgrove, Lisadian, Hills- borough, Co. Down	U47/35	14	14	—
Mr. D. Freeland	North Down Poultry Farm, Craigavad, Co. Down	U84/34	4	5	—
Mrs. R. Gillespie	Drumlester, Sixmile- cross, Co. Tyrone	U165/35	5	9	C
do.	do.	U194/34	16	11	
Miss I. Gilmer	Rashee, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim	U167/35	6	6	—
Mr. T. J. M'Millan	Crossgar, Co. Down	U159/35	14	13	—
Mr. F. W. Pelan	Sycamore Hill, Lambeg, Co. Antrim	U50/35	8	7	C & P
Miss M. Tate	Danesfort, Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh	U51/35	—	1	—
Mr. J. Warnock	Tower View, Rathgael, Bangor, Co. Down	U52/35	4	4	—
do.	do.	U187/34	—	1	—
Mr. H. L. Watson	Mount Nebo, Gilnahirk, Belfast	D.110	4	2	C

LIGHT SUSSEX.

Owner.	Address.	Copper ring No. of hens.	No. of cockerels sent to owner.	No. of pullets sent to owner.	Birds for sale. C—cockerels P—pullets
Miss M. Crowe	Knappagh, Killylea P.O. Co. Armagh	U111/35	11	8	—
Mrs. M. Finlay	Langfield, Armoy, Co. Antrim	U135/34	10	6	C
Mrs. H. Getty	Hillcrest, Newtownards, Co. Down	XV48/35	3	2	—
Mrs. S. B. Nangle	Ballyeglish, Moneymore, Co. Londonderry	U115/35	14	10	C
do.	do.	U136/34	8	4	
Mr. S. A. Upton	Drumscill, Maze, Lisburn, Co. Antrim	U122/35	5	3	C

FOURTEENTH EGG-LAYING TEST AT STORMONT.

RESULTS TO THE END OF THE ELEVENTH PERIOD.

The eleventh period of four weeks ended on the 7th August. There was a further decrease in egg production due to broodiness and moulting. The average production for the period under review of the 900 birds which were originally penned and excluding pens 16 and 17 was 12.63 eggs per bird, as compared with an average of 14 eggs for the previous period. The average egg production during the eleventh period of the birds alive at the end of the period was 13.8 eggs per bird.

The highest average for the period is again to the credit of the White Leghorns in Section 2, viz., 15.1 eggs per bird. The Rhode Island Reds in Section 3 are next in order with an average of 14.1 eggs per bird.

There were nine deaths during the period, and if the two pens, No. 16 and 17, which were returned to their owners on the 22nd June, are excluded, the total number of deaths from the start of the test is 80, which represents a mortality rate in respect of the 900 birds of 8.8 per cent. The following are particulars of the leading pens in each section as at the end of the eleventh period :—

SECTION 1. WHITE WYANDOTTES (OPEN). 28 PENS.

Position.	No. of Pen.	Name and Address of Owner.	Number of eggs laid.			Test score value.
			Super Grade.	First Grade.	Below First Grade.	
1	11	Mr. J. Hall, Lilac Cottage, Donacloney, Co. Down.	992	125	13	1117
2	26	Mr. R. Tolerton, Holborn Hall, Plantation, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.	639	445	99	1084
3	3	Mrs. H. G. Darley, Trory, Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh.	624	452	86	1076

SECTION 2. WHITE LEGHORNS (OPEN). 8 PENS.

1	37	Mr. J. Waugh, Ballyrickard, Kilwaughter, Larne, Co. Antrim.	495	485	100	980
2	36	Mrs. J. Warnock, Tower View, Rathgael, Bangor, Co. Down.	279	674	202	953
3	31	Mrs. F. R. Browne, Lake View, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh.	566	374	101	940

SECTION 3. RHODE ISLAND REDS (OPEN). 38 PENS.

Position.	No. of Pen.	Name and Address of Owner.	Number of eggs laid.			Test score value.
			Super Grade.	First Grade.	Below First Grade.	
1	63	Mrs. D. Patterson, Ballycastle Road, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry.	607	558	39	1165
2	39	Mrs. R. A. Abernethy, Cherry Hill, Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone.	730	429	152	1159
3	70	Miss R. L. Sinclair, Ballybirnie, Holy Hill, Strabane, Co. Tyrone	673	475	106	1148

SECTION 4. ANY OTHER PURE BREED. 14 PENS.

1	84	Mrs. J. W. Murland, Ardnabannon, Annsboro', Co. Down.	555	373	142	928
2	83	Mrs. H. W. Merrick, Agivey House, Aghadowey, Co. Londonderry.	600	324	69	924
3	82	Miss C. C. Meara, Coalisland, Co. Tyrone. (All Light Sussex).	298	593	87	891

SECTION 5(a). WHITE WYANDOTTES (STATION-HOLDERS). 13 PENS.

1	99	Mrs. M. Rodgers, Ballyginney, Dundrum, Co. Down.	714	364	101	1078
2	95	Mrs. W. M'Cullough, Bruslee, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim.	626	396	53	1022
3	101	Mrs. M. E. Warmington, Lake View, Newtownhamilton, Co. Armagh.	460	505	94	965

SECTION 5(b). WHITE LEGHORNS (STATION-HOLDERS). 10 PENS.

1	108	Mrs. J. Knox, Shanmullagh, Ederney, Co. Fermanagh.	714	293	94	1007
2	109	Mrs. M. Noble, Roundpark House, Killycramph, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh	816	168	10	984
3	113	Mrs. J. Brown, Gorsebank, Culcrum, Co. Antrim	630	352	96	982

SECTION 5(c). RHODE ISLAND REDS (STATION-HOLDERS). 22 PENS.

1	120	Mrs. M. D. Bell, Woodview, Moneymore, Co. Londonderry.	747	418	53	1165
2	125	Mrs. M. M'Clintock, Laymore, Ballymena, Co. Antrim	490	618	121	1108
3	118	Miss M. L. Fleming, Ballymenagh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone	659	431	46	1090

SECTION 6. POULTRY CLUBS AND YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS. 17 PENS.

Position.	No. of Pen.	Name and Address of Owner.	Number of eggs laid.			
			Super Grade.	First Grade.	Below First Grade.	Test score value.
1	149	Banbridge and District Poultry Club. (Rhode Island Reds)	621	534	64	1155
2	141	Ballyclare Poultry Club. (White Leghorns)	591	495	68	1086
3	136	Ballywalter Young Farmers' Club. (White Wyandottes)	499	516	85	1015

The "test score value" means the total of the super grade and first grade eggs. Eggs which weigh less than 2 oz. each are graded as "below first grade" throughout the entire test period.

The following were the leading pens in the entire test at the end of the eleventh period :—

Pen No. 120—Mrs. M. D. Bell—Score, 1,165 eggs	} equal.
„ 63—Mrs. D. Patterson—Score 1,165 eggs	
„ 39—Mrs. R. A. Abernethy—Score, 1,159 eggs.	
„ 149—Banbridge & District Poultry Club—Score, 1,155 eggs.	

SUMMARY OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORTHCOMING LAYING TEST AT STORMONT.

1. Entries to be made on forms supplied by the Ministry and posted so as to reach the Ministry on or before 1st September, 1936.
2. Envelopes containing entry forms to be addressed to The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast; if addressed thus, they need not be stamped.
3. Pullets of all pure breeds are eligible for the Test.
4. A breeder may make as many entries as he likes.
5. All birds must pass the test for Bacillary White Diarrhoea before despatch from the farm. Upwards of 24 birds in respect of each entry of six will be tested free of charge.
6. Pullets must be mature, healthy and typical of their breeds.
7. The entry fee of £1 10s. per pen of six pullets will be refunded if the entry is not accepted.
8. Pens of birds provisionally accepted for the Test must arrive at Belfast, on Friday, 25th September, if being sent by rail, and on either Friday, 25th September, or Saturday, 26th September, 1936, if being sent by road.
9. The Test period commences on the 2nd October, 1936.

PRICES OF FEEDING STUFFS.

The following table shows the average retail prices per cwt. of Feeding Stuffs at 1st August, 1936, with comparative figures for the corresponding date in 1935.

	1936.					1935.				
	Price per cwt.	Protein equivalent	Price per unit of protein equivalent	Starch equivalent	Price per unit of starch equivalent	Price per cwt.	Protein equivalent	Price per unit of protein equivalent	Starch equivalent	Price per unit of starch equivalent
STARCHY FOODS:										
Maize (whole)	s. 5 11½	6.8	d. 17 5	81.5	s. 1 5	d. 14 8	6.8	s. 14 8	81.5	s. 1 2
Maize Meal ..	6 4½	6.8	18 10	81.5	1 7	5 3	6.8	15 5	81.5	1 4
Bran, Red ..	7 3½	10.0	14 8	45.3	3 3	6 10	10.0	13 8	45.3	3 0
Bran, White ..	8 6½	10.0	17 2	45.3	3 9	7 9	10.0	15 6	45.3	3 5
Pollard, Brown ..	7 6	11.0	13 8	71.2	2 1	7 2	11.0	13 0	71.2	2 0
Pollard, White ..	8 5½	11.0	15 4	71.2	2 4	7 11	11.0	14 5	71.2	2 3
Barley Meal ..	7 11	6.2	25 6	69.7	2 3	7 7	6.2	24 6	69.7	2 2
Oats ..	5 6	7.6	14 5½	60.0	1 10	5 10	7.6	15 4	60.0	1 11
Wheat (Whole) ..	8 5½	9.6	17 7	72.0	2 4	—	9.6	—	72.0	—
PROTEIN FOODS:										
Linseed Cake, home-made	10 5½	25.0	8 4	71.8	2 11	10 5	25.0	8 4	71.8	2 11
Linseed Cake, foreign ..	9 4½	25.0	7 6	71.8	2 8	9 3	25.0	7 5	71.8	2 7
Linseed Cake Meal ..	9 8½	25.0	7 9	72.8	2 8	9 4	25.0	7 5	72.8	2 7
Cotton Cake, decorticated	9 1	35.0	5 2	71.2	2 7	9 1	35.0	5 2	71.2	2 6
Cotton Cake, undecorticated	6 8	17.0	7 10	39.2	3 5	6 2	17.0	7 3	39.2	3 1
Earth Nut Cake, decorticated	8 10½	41.0	4 4	73.0	2 5	8 5	41.0	4 1	73.0	2 4
Soya Bean Meal (extracted)	13 7½	38.0	7 2	64.0	4 3	8 7	38.0	4 6	64.0	2 8
Bean Meal ..	9 0	20.0	9 0	66.0	2 9	—	20.0	—	66.0	—
Fish Meal (60% protein)	15 4	53.0	5 9	58.9	5 3	16 0	53.0	6 0	58.9	5 5
Meat and Bone Meal (40% protein)	9 7½	36.2	5 4	44.0	5 4	9 6	36.2	5 3	44.0	4 4
Meat and Bone Meal (60% protein)	13 7½	54.9	5 0	61.3	4 5½	14 1	54.9	5 1	61.3	4 7
OTHER FEEDING STUFFS:										
Linseed, whole	16 9½	19.0	17 8	119.2	2 10	15 4	19.0	16 1	119.2	2 7
Palm Nut Cake	8 0	17.0	9 5	70.2	2 3½	7 7	17.0	8 11	70.2	2 2
Palm Nut Meal	8 1	17.0	9 6	78.0	2 1	7 11	17.0	9 3	78.0	2 0
Potatoes ..	2 0	0.6	66 8	18.0	2 3	1 3	0.6	41 8	18.0	1 5
Oat Straw ..	2 1½	0.9	47 3	20.0	2 1½	1 7	0.9	35 2	20.0	1 7
Meadow Hay ..	2 9½	4.6	12 2	37.0	1 6	2 3	4.6	9 9	37.0	1 2

PRICES OF FEEDING STUFFS.

One of the objects of the foregoing table is to guide farmers in the economic purchase of feeding stuffs.

Ignoring their mineral content, the valuable constituents of any feeding stuff, whether home-grown or purchased, consist of:—

- (1) Carbohydrates—a group of substances which include materials such as starch, sugar, etc. They supply heat or energy to the animal, and the surplus is stored by the animal as fat.
- (2) Oil—which also provide heat or energy, the surplus being stored as fat. For this purpose oil is approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as valuable as the carbohydrates, but its presence in the ration in excessive quantities may lower the digestibility of the ration and cause digestive troubles.
- (3) Protein—The group of bodies termed protein or albuminoids contain nitrogen. Protein is the only ingredient of a feeding stuff which can produce flesh or muscle, and hence its special importance.

All animals require a certain amount of each of the above constituents, but the relative amounts depend upon the class of stock. Thus, for example, a two-year-old fattening bullock requires a relatively small amount of protein (flesh forming material). Its ration should consist mainly of foods rich in carbohydrates, i.e., fat producing substances. On the other hand, a dairy cow is producing milk, which is a substance rich in protein, and as the protein, that is flesh forming material in milk, can only be derived from the protein in the food, the ration for the dairy cow must contain considerably more protein than that for the fattening bullock.

There are very wide differences in the composition of feeding stuffs, both home grown and purchased. Some, such as oats and maize, are rich in carbohydrates, and, therefore, particularly valuable for fattening purposes, whilst others, such as decorticated cotton cake, earthnut cake and linseed cake, are rich in protein, and are chiefly valuable for their flesh and milk-producing properties.

In the following table the composition of some of the more commonly used feeding stuffs is shown:—

PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION.

	Water.	Protein.	Oil.	Carbohydrates.
Turnips (Swedes)	88	1	0.2	9
Potatoes	75	2	0.1	21
Oat Straw	14	4	2	37
Meadow Hay	10	10	3	45
Pasture Grass	80	3.5	0.8	10
Cabbage	89	1.5	0.5	8
Fattening Foods :				
Oats	13	9	6	60
Maize Meal	12	10	4	70
Barley Meal	13	12	2	66
Flesh Forming Foods :				
Linseed Cake	11	30	10	35
Decorticated Cotton Cake	9	40	9	26

The farmer frequently asks what is the cheapest feeding stuff to buy. It is, however, often very difficult to give a direct answer. Much depends upon what the feeding stuff is required for, whether for fattening or milk production. Again, maize and oats are essentially fattening foods, whilst decorticated cotton cake is a flesh-forming food, and it would be just as futile to use the cost per ton to compare their values as it would be to use the cost per ton to compare the values of, say, sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate.

Foods of similar composition can, however, be compared, and it is possible for the enterprising farmer to effect considerable economies, not only in the use of home-grown feeding stuffs, but particularly in the purchase of concentrated feeding stuffs, by studying the market prices.

The starch equivalent figure is a measure of the energy, heat or fat producing value of the feeding stuff, and shows the number of pounds of starch which would be required to give the same heat or energy as 100 lb. of the feeding stuff. For example, the table on page 52 states that the starch equivalent of maize meal is $81\frac{1}{2}$, or, in other words, 100 lb. of maize meal will provide as much heat or energy as $81\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of pure starch.

The protein equivalent figure shows the number of pounds of digestible flesh or muscle producing material in 100 lb. of each of the feeding stuffs listed.

PRICES OF FAT STOCK.

The following were the average prices per live cwt. of bullocks and heifers, sold at Belfast Auction Marts during each of the four weeks ended 28th July, 1936:—

Week ended.	Bullocks.		Heifers.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
7th July	35	3	35	0
14th July	36	6	36	9
21st July	36	9	36	6
28th July	36	6	36	6

PRICES OF LIVE STOCK.

Average Prices of Live Stock at Fairs during the month of July, 1936.

Date	Fair.	Calves (under 9 months.)	Store Cattle.	Fat Cattle (18 months and over).	Springers		Milch. Cows.	Fat Lambs (under 12 months old).	Fat Sheep (over 2 years old).	Young Pigs.
					Cows.	Heifers.				
		Per Head	Per Cwt. Live Weight	Per cwt. Live wtg.	Per head	Per head	Per head	Per head	Per head	Per head
		£ s.			£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
1	Londonderry ..	—	28/- to 34/-	—	17 0	14 10	—	11 12/6	—	1 7/6
1	Rathfriland ..	5 13/3	30/- to 36/-	31/-	15 0	13 0	13 0	11 8	—	1 7/6
2	Ballymoney ..	5 8	31/- to 35/-	30/6	13 17/6	12 0	12 7/6	—	—	1 10
2	Strabane ..	4 0	31/6 to 34/-	30/-	13 10	—	12 0	—	—	—
3	Moy ..	—	28/- to 36/-	32/-	15 8/9	12 3/9	15 7/6	11 11/3	7/6	—
7	Omagh ..	4 15/9	32/- to 36/-	32/6	15 5	12 10	14 0	11 11	—	—
8	Crossgar ..	—	31/- to 33/-	—	15 15	14 0	—	11 10	—	1 14
8	Irvinestown ..	5 2	32/- to 33/-	31/-	14 10	12 0	13 0	11 8	10	1 10
10	Ballygawley ..	—	29/- to 36/-	31/6	14 0	—	13 0	11 6	—	1 12/6
10	Enniskillen ..	4 12/9	24/- to 30/-	33/-	14 0	12 0	12 15	11 2	15	1 8
13	Limavady ..	—	28/- to 34/6	32/-	18 0	15 0	—	—	—	1 7
15	Lisnakea ..	4 10/9	26/6 to 31/6	31/6	14 15	14 10	13 10	—	—	1 12/6
16	Ballynahinch ..	—	31/- to 34/-	—	16 10	14 0	15 15	11 7	10	1 15
18	Portadown ..	5 15	30/- to 36/-	34/-	17 0	14 10	16 0	—	—	1 12/6
20	Camlough ..	4 10	23/- to 29/6	32/-	14 0	12 10	12 0	11 8	—	—
21	Claudy ..	—	27/6 to 34/6	31/6	15 0	14 0	—	11 6	—	1 6
21	Moneymore ..	4 9	31/6 to 34/-	32/6	14 0	12 12/6	12 0	11 8	—	1 10/9
22	Fintona ..	5 6/3	36/- to 39/-	33/-	15 10	13 10	14 0	11 12/6	—	1 10
30	Antrim ..	—	34/- to 40/-	33/-	19 0	18 0	17 0	—	—	1 10
31	Castlederg ..	—	34/- to 36/-	—	15 0	—	—	11 10	—	1 8
31	Killylea ..	—	30/6 to 36/6	33/6	15 15	—	14 10	—	—	—
Aug. 1	Ballymena ..	6 5/6	23/- to 35/-	—	19 10	19 15	18 5	—	—	1 10

* Mountain.

† Downs and Cross.

‡ Long Wools.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Table showing the Imports and Exports through Northern Ireland ports of certain Agricultural Products during the month ended 30th June, 1936, and the six months ended 30th June, 1936, with comparative figures for the corresponding periods in 1935.

(These figures are supplied through the courtesy of the Ministry of Commerce and are subject to revision).

COMMODITY	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	Month ended 30th June.		Six months ended 30th June.	Month ended 30th June.		Six months ended 30th June.
	1936	1935		1936	1935	
Bacon cwt.	1,236	2,257	9,273	22,933	21,823	186,657
Hams cwt.	612	772	3,879	6,235	7,588	67,783
Pork cwt.	—	2	49	3,466	2,122	21,069
Butter cwt.	8,061	9,997	80,105	704	907	1,781
Eggs gt. hds.	3,198	4,723	42,053	340,006	357,086	1,946,413
Oat Products (inc. Oatmeal) cwt.	1,994	1,316	13,452	4,467	5,729	44,719
Potatoes tons	58	65	102	19,842	13,768	167,233
Poultry cwt.	3	70	121	6,011	5,575	98,081
Grass Seeds cwt.	596	634	6,979	9,714	4,293	264,072
						217,502

There were 5,714 cwts. of oats imported direct through Northern Ireland ports from abroad during the month of June, 1936. Imports direct from abroad during the corresponding month of 1935 amounted to 12,020 cwts.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. List of Leaflets and other Publications.

LEAFLETS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>No 1. Flax Seed, 1936.
 " 2. Improvement of Farm Poultry.
 " 3. Feeding for Egg Production.
 " 4. Marketing of Eggs.
 " 5. The Dishorning of Calves.
 " 6. The Packing of Apples in Standard Boxes.
 " 7. Potato Trials.
 " 8. Seed Testing for Farmers.
 " 9. The Renovation of Orchards.
 " 10. Fruit Tree Pests—Capsid Bugs.
 " 11. Fruit Tree Pests—Aphides and Apple Sucker.
 " 12. Fruit Tree Pests—Caterpillars.
 " 13. Contagious Abortion in Cattle.
 " 14. Cheese-making on the Farm.
 " 15. Suitable Varieties of Fruit.
 " 16. The Feeding of Dairy Cows.
 " 17. Home Bottling of Fruits and Vegetables.
 " 18. Marketing of Dead Poultry.
 " 19. How to Feed Linseed.
 " 20. The Hatching and Rearing of Chickens.
 " 21. The Uses and Advantages of Portable Poultry Houses.
 " 22. Leather-Jacket Grubs.
 " 23. The Handling and Care of Wool.
 " 24. Fluke in Sheep.
 " 25. The Rearing and Management of Young Horses.
 " 26. Ordnance Survey Maps for Farmers.
 " 27. How to Keep Eggs Clean
 " 28. The Construction of a Laying House for Poultry.
 " 29. The Selection and Breeding of Laying Hens.
 " 31. Coccidiosis in Poultry.
 " 32. Roup of Poultry (Fowl Pox).
 " 33. Spraying Calendar for Apple Orchards.
 " 34. The Pruning of Apple Trees.
 " 35. The Fattening of Pigs.
 " 36. Advantages of Milk Recording.
 " 37. The Raising and Fattening of Turkeys.
 " 38. The Destruction of Charlock.
 " 39. The Production of Clean Milk.
 " 40. The Laying Down and Management of Temporary Pastures.
 " 41. Blackleg, Blackquarter or Quarterill.
 " 42. The Purchase of Balanced Rations for Dairy Cows.
 " 43. Tuberculosis in Poultry.</p> | <p>No. 44. Results of Crop Experiments, 1935.
 " 45. The Breeding and Rearing of Pigs.
 " 46. Hints for Winter Egg Production.
 " 47. The Care and Management of Sheep.
 " 49. American Gooseberry Mildew.
 " 50. Potato Blight.
 " 51. Butter-making on the Farm.
 " 52. Gapes in Chickens.
 " 54. The Breeding and Rearing of Calves.
 " 55. Destruction of Ragwort or Benweed.
 " 56. Identification of Egg Supplies.
 " 57. How to have Eggs of First Quality.
 " 58. How the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act benefits the Farmer.
 " 59. Bacillary White Diarrhoea (Pullorum Disease).
 " 60. Advantages of Winter Agricultural Classes.
 " 61. The Care and Management of Breeding Bulls.
 " 62. The Production of Timber on the Farm.
 " 63. Sheep—Castration, Docking, Foot-Rot and Care of Feet.
 " 64. The Destruction of Warble Fly Maggots in Cattle.
 " 65. The Packing of Apples in Barrels.
 " 66. Seed Testing Facilities for Traders.
 " 67. The Cultivation of Vegetables.
 " 68. The Cultivation of Strawberries.
 " 69. The Construction of Piggeries.
 " 70. Ringworm.
 " 71. The Cultivation of Raspberries.
 " 72. Tree Planting for Shelter and Ornament.
 " 73. The Propagation and Maintenance of Healthy Stocks of Potatoes.
 " 74. New Pure Strains of Flax.
 " 75. Pig Production and the Pigs Marketing Scheme.
 " 76. Acarine (Isle of Wight) Disease of Bees.
 " 77. Licensing of Milk Producers and Distributors.
 " 78. Graded Milk.
 " 79. The Picking and Storing of Apples.
 " 80. Hoose or Husk in Farm Stock.
 " 81. The Construction of Cow Houses.
 " 82. White Scour in Calves.
 " 83. The Care, Management and Feeding of the Poultry Breeding Stock.</p> |
|---|---|

Any of the above leaflets may be obtained free of charge and post free on application to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast.

CIRCULARS.

- No. 1. Phosphatic Fertilisers.
 " 5. Why Pay a Tax on the Horns of Cattle ?
 " 8. Basic Slag.
 " 9. Smut in Oats.
 " 10. Purchase of Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs.
 " 11. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act—General Summary.
 " 12. The Treatment of Liver Fluke.
 " 13. The ox-Warble Fly.
 " 306. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926—Revision of Regulations.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS.

Store Cattle.
 Reports on Egg-Laying Tests.
 Crop Insurance.
 List of Growers of Certified Crops of Immune Varieties of Potatoes.
 List of Growers of Certified Crops of Non-Immune Varieties of Potatoes.
 The Ministry's Monthly Report.
 Register of Premium Stallions.
 Guide to the Live Stock Breeding Act (Northern Ireland), 1922.
 Guide to the Marketing of Fruit Act (Northern Ireland), 1932.

Any of the above publications may be obtained free of charge and post free on application to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast.

The following publications can be obtained from His Majesty's Stationery Office, 80 Chichester Street, Belfast, at the prices stated :—

- (1) The Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland. Price 2/6 net.
- (2) Annual Report upon the Agricultural Statistics of Northern Ireland. Price 2/- net.
- (3) The Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland. Price 2/6 net.
- (4) The Agricultural Output of Northern Ireland, 1925. Price 2/6 net.

